

English week 4 Session 1	English Meerkat Mail		
Starter	Start by learning a bit about meerkats by watching: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/how-meerkats-interact-in-the-wild-no-narration/z7h6nrd		
Parent	The children need to be able to make predictions about books and so it is important to avoid watching the YouTube clip of the story until they have completed this first task. If they know the story or have the book. Can they write a paragraph comparing it to other stories with similar sequences or a layout, such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar (which goes through the days of the week) and The Jolly Postman (which has letters in it).		
Activity	Look at the front cover of the book and the postcard on the page where Sunny has written home whilst on his travels. Can they predict this story might be about and how it might end? This could be with a drawn story map, a short paragraph or just a picture of how they think it may end.		
	If they would like to watch more meerkats there are some good Zoo webcams - feeding time is apparently at 12.30 so is the best time to check in on Newquay Zoo https://www.newquayzoo.org.uk/explore/webcam https://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/explore/webcams		
English week 4 Session 2	English Meerkat Mail		
Starter	Watch the YouTube recording of a teacher reading the book that we will be learning about over the next few weeks - Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=meerkat+mail+youtube&docid=608029328648638269&mid=3C903FD786217C5CA1643C903FD786217C5CA164&view=detail&FORM=VIRE		
Parent	This week the story comes from Africa and is all about a cheeky meerkat character called Sunny who lives in the Kalahari desert. He becomes fed up with his home and his close family and decides to travel. We learn lots about other habitats and animals around the world on his travels. We will return to it for the next few weeks' English inspiration too.		
Activity	* Worksheet or Extraordinary homelearning book based activity	** Worksheet or Extraordinary homelearning book based activity	*** Worksheet or Extraordinary homelearning book based activity
	Find the list of words on the sheet entitled 'Clarifying vocabulary.' They can print the sheet out or just record the list in their books. Find the definition of the words in a dictionary or online (unless they know them already of course). Draw a picture to define each word.	Find the list of words on the sheet entitled 'Clarifying vocabulary' They can print the sheet out or just record the list in their books. Find the definition of the words in a dictionary or online and write their definitions.	As the ** activity, however for an extra challenge - are they able to identify which ones are nouns, verbs or adjectives. They could underline or highlight them in different colours to show this. (See answers below)

Parents	Encourage the children to use the new vocabulary in spoken sentences while retelling the story to an adult or other family member. If they have completed the three-star activity the answers are as follows: Nouns - meerkat, mongoose, termite, scorpions, motto, lookout, mound, Madagascar, marsh Verbs - close, perfect, head off Adjective - slimy
English week 4 Session 3	English Meerkat Mail
Starter	Watch the Youtube clip of the story again to reinforce the story line and structure: https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=meerkat+mail+youtube&docid=608029328648638269&mid=3C903FD786217C5CA1643C903FD786217C5CA164&view=detail&FORM=VIRE
Parent	Part of the reading curriculum is about developing the children's opinions of stories and being able to discuss their favourite stories, authors etc by making comparisons or saying how they would have improved the story. Discuss their feelings about this one.
Writing Activity	In their Extraordinary Home Learning books, can they write about or draw their favourite part of the story and say why this is the best part. If they don't like the story, then that is acceptable however it would be useful if they were able to talk about an African animal story that they enjoy.
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Starter	No starter
Parent	It is important that they have understood the structure of the story - using the days of the week. Some discussion would be helpful to explain where Madagascar is in relation to the Kalahari Desert. Ask them to recall some key repetitive phrases from the story.
Activities	Sequence the story using the activity sheet on the website and retell it to an adult using vocabulary from the clarifier sheet. They could just use numbers to order the pictures or they could cut them out and use sentences to retell the events at that point in the story.
English week 5 Session 1	English Meerkat Mail
Starter	None today
Parent	Session 5 is an opportunity to complete any activities outstanding. Next week they will be writing a story about another animal in a style similar to Meerkat Mail, so they could start thinking about that. If they would like to, there is an activity sheet on the website that they can print, cut out and make a meerkat model from.