



The Big Dig!

This half term our children will be nature explorers, discovering how things grow outdoors! We will be tending



to our seeds and seedlings and creating a garden for us to grow all sorts of flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables. We will be hunting for bugs and taking great care of them. We will also be hatching our very own bugs... but shhh! Don't tell the children - we love to see them in awe of a surprise! Here are just some of the learning opportunities children will experience - across all seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We have included ideas as to how you can help your child at home which we hope you find useful.

Communication and Language

As well as singing our summer songs and poems every day, we will be reading a range of different stories linked to our theme of growing. When we share our stories we will be learning to

- talk about what we like, dislike or find interesting
- describe where the story is set and what the characters are like
- retell the stories in our own words (but using some words from the stories).

At home...

- *share a story and talk about what happened in it. Talk about the characters and what they did... can you and your child retell the story in your own words? Were there any new words to learn the meaning of in the books?*



Physical Development

Throughout this term, we want our children to be out and about in the fresh air where they can enjoy moving energetically, confidently and safely in a variety of different ways. Whether they are exploring in the wildlife area, making hides and dens, climbing over, under and through the trim trail or playing games in the ball court, children will be moving - developing their strength, balance and co-ordination.

During our physical development sessions, children will be learning to

- move a range of materials safely as they build and construct (e.g. crates, planks, drain pipes...)
- bounce, catch, roll, pass and move with a large ball in different ways
- handle equipment and tools effectively - including scissors, hole punches, staplers, split pins and pencils for writing.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will continue to have opportunities to:

- take turns with others
- show sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others
- take account of one another's ideas about how to organise their activity.

At home -Talk about how you feel or how others feel when your child has shown care, concern or kindness to others.

Talk about how kind actions make others feel happy as well as how unkind actions can make people feel. 'We can make people happy' is one of our class rules!

Encourage and praise your child's efforts when trying new activities and when being independent. Confident children become independent and independent children are confident.



Expressive Arts and Design



Children will be learning to explore colour! We will be learning how to mix our new powder paints to create a range of different colours that we find outdoors.

Children will also be busy creating seed packets, bean diaries and nature books, learning how to use simple tools and techniques (such as scissors, tape, split pins, thread, staplers...) to assemble and join materials,

adapting work where appropriate

In our design work, we will be tasting a range of different fruits and then designing our own fruit salad to enjoy with our friends at snack time.

Every day we will be singing songs and rhymes.

At home...encourage your child to build and create with whatever you have to hand. Perhaps they could create a picture from leaves, stones and petals that you find when you are out and about... Share your child's creativity with us. We would love to celebrate their successes!

Mathematics

Children will be learning to

- count to 20 then above, recognising the pattern of counting (e.g. 21, 22, 23.... 31, 32, 33...)
- build teen numbers and know that 11 is 10 and one more, 12 is 10 and 2 more, 13 is 10 and 3 more...
- recognise and order numbers to 10 then above
- identify shapes (triangles, squares, rectangles, diamonds...) then create patterns and pictures with them
- use words to describe the height or length of objects - longer, shorter, taller, wider, narrow, the same as...
- use words to describe capacity - full, empty, half full

At home try the following ...

- *Count everything! When tidying up, walking up the stairs...*
- *Look for shapes in the environment - what can you find?*
- *Find out which is your shortest toy...Which is the tallest?*

Understanding the World

Children will be planting and growing seeds and creating a vegetable garden. We will be growing a range of different vegetables, herbs and flowers. Children will have opportunities to

- make observations of plants and talk about changes (as things grow)
- learn key words to help them when talking about these observations (root, shoot, stem, soil, nutrients...)
- explain 'how' and 'why' plants grow (or don't)

Children will also have opportunities to observe closely the range of insects we have in our school grounds, and observe first-hand how caterpillars develop into butterflies. As they do, children will be learning how to describe how insects grow and change over time.

At home...

- *sow a seed or grow a plant! Take care of it together and watch it grow... ask your child to tell you about how the seed changes. Write down their descriptions on a 'WOW' note.*

Literacy

Reading

As always, children will experience a daily phonics lesson as part of their reading and writing development. We will continue to work on

- blending sounds together to read words - sh - o - p
- recognising words immediately
- reading simple sentences.

At home continue to hear your child read through the sounds, words and reading books in their reading folder. Sounds and words that we will be learning will be placed in there soon.

Writing

Whether writing signs for our garden or making notes in our garden diaries, the key skills we will work on will include

- writing simple sentences with finger spaces in between words
- leaving clear spaces in between the words.

