

# Summer Term Nursery

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term we are introducing our new topic, Growing. Children will explore how living things grow and change over time, with a strong focus on nature, the garden and the world around us. Through hands-on play, outdoor exploration, stories and creative activities, we will be encouraging curiosity, care for our environment, and an understanding of how we grow and learn every day. We look forward to sharing all of our wonderful learning with you.

The Nursery Team

## Communication and Language

This term, we will be working on our phonics. As part of this, we will explore environmental/instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme, voice sounds, and oral blending.



We will continue sharing both fiction and non-fiction books about growing, using these and a variety of activities to build our vocabulary linked to the Growing and Changing topic.



How to help at home...

Say a simple word (like cat). Help your child break it into sounds - c-a-t - then ask them to say the sounds together to make the word. This is called oral blending and helps support early reading and spelling development.

## Physical Development

As part of our Growing topic, children will develop their physical skills through active play indoors and outdoors. Gross motor activities include outdoor team games, scarf and parachute play, movement to music, and climbing, balancing, running and chasing games linked to garden exploration.

Fine motor skills will be supported through outdoor mark-making and indoor activities such as threading, dough, pegboards and early writing movements, alongside supervised scissor skills to build control and confidence.



### How to help at home...

Encourage daily active play like running, balancing, or dancing to music. Support fine motor skills with drawing, dough, simple crafts, and practising cutting safely.

## Personal, Social, Emotional Development

We will continue to support children in understanding rules, routines and boundaries, linked to our school expectations:

Be Ready • Be Safe • Be Respectful.

Through turn-taking, simple games and cooperative play, children will build awareness of others and learn to work together. Planned activities such as dice games, action games and shared tasks (like parachute play and building together) help children practise waiting, teamwork and positive ways to solve problems, supported by adults modelling kind and respectful behaviour.



### How to help at home...

You can support this at home by reinforcing simple rules and routines. Play turn-taking games like board or dice games, encourage sharing, and model calm ways to solve problems.

## Literacy

This term, children will develop early literacy skills through sharing stories, rhymes and poems linked to nature and growth. We will encourage listening, attention and talking, learning new vocabulary, and developing an interest in books. Early reading skills will be supported through phonics activities and topic related books. Children will also practise early writing skills through mark-making, patterns and name recognition.

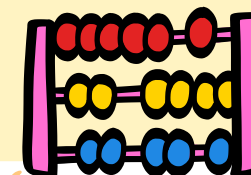


### How to help at home...

Share stories, poems and rhymes together, especially ones linked to nature and growing. Talk about pictures in books and encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases. Support early writing by letting your child draw, make marks, and recognise their name.

## Maths

Children will develop early maths skills by matching numbers to amounts (1-5), counting objects from a group, and linking numerals to sets. We are learning to recognise and describe 2D shapes (circle, square, triangle), compare big and small, and create and continue simple repeating patterns. Through our Growing topic, children will practise these skills by counting seeds and natural objects, going on shape hunts, and building patterns with sticks, petals and stones.



### How to help at home...

You can support maths at home by counting everyday objects (1-5), and matching numbers to amounts. Talk about shapes you see, compare sizes using big and small, and make simple repeating patterns.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Children will explore colour and colour mixing using garden-inspired shades while developing fine-motor control through painting, block printing and sponge painting. They will create with construction kits and natural materials, enjoying small-world and imaginative play, and making art with loose parts like stones and petals. We will also share poems linked to nature and growth, encouraging listening, language and creativity.



## How to help at home...

Encourage creativity by painting, colouring or mixing colours together at home. You can also make pictures or patterns with leaves and stones, and enjoy sharing poems or rhymes about nature and growing together.

## Understanding the World

As part of our topic, we will learn to care for our immediate environment by watering plants and tidying natural areas. We will observe Spring changes in the garden and explore natural materials through tuff trays, mud kitchens and outdoor play. Through these experiences, children are developing an understanding that plants grow and change over time.



## How to help at home...

Support learning by involving your child in caring for plants, such as watering flowers or herbs and helping to tidy the garden. Talk about changes you notice in Spring, like new leaves or flowers growing. Encourage outdoor play with natural materials like mud, sticks or stones, and chat about how plants grow and change over time.