

Summer Term Reception

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a lovely Easter holiday and have been enjoying the sunnier and warmer weather!

This term, we are looking at our topic Growing and later in the term, we will be exploring our second topic of Journeys.

Children will be exploring how things such as plants, ducklings and caterpillars grow. Later in the term, they will explore an abundance of different journeys creatures and humans big and small take on

They will be doing all of this through learning through play, investigation and stories.

We cannot wait to share our learning with you,

Miss Rich and Mrs Williams



Communication and Language

Children are learning a variety of new vocabulary linked to life cycles such as a stem, a duckling and butterflies. The children will be encouraged to speak in full sentences when answering and asking questions.

We are also focusing on expanding the children's vocabulary using prepositional language and thinking aloud their ideas.

Each week, we will be learning a new nursery rhyme to help our children develop their skill of re-telling a story and sequencing events.

How to help at home...

Talk to your child about their day and always encourage full answers. Such as, 'I painted a flower.' Talk about what children can see and notice when going outside- what can they see grow? What can they hear?

We will be sending our weekly WellComm focus words on Tapestry for you to practise with your child as well as sharing our weekly nursery rhyme.





Physical Development

In PE this term, the children will be learning and engaging in a variety of games as well as developing their ball skills. The children are improving their strength, balance and co-ordination to become confident movers and develop essential gross motor skills.

The children are encouraged daily to develop and refine their fine motor skills. They complete a variety of funky finger activities during busy time to help strengthen their fine motor skills for writing and other everyday activities.



Personal, Social, Emotional Development

As we move towards the end of our year together in Reception, the children are learning how to manage their emotions and understand their feelings more. Such as by taking turns, sharing and co-operating with others when playing and learning. The children are also exploring how to look after themselves and thinking of what it means to be healthy.

How to help at home...



You can help by engaging and completing a variety of ball games with your child at home to improve their co-ordination and fundamental skills.

To improve their fine motor skills, you can access a variety of funky finger videos and rhymes on YouTube. Threading pasta, cutting spaghetti and playdough activities are all fantastic activities to help your child develop their fine motor skills.

How to help at home...



Talk to your child about their feelings, using vocabulary such as happy, worried or excited. This will help your child understand their emotions and think their feelings through.

You can also encourage independence in as many daily tasks as possible such as dressing themselves, tidying up and helping grown-ups. As the weather is getting nicer, you may want to practise with your child taking turns when playing games outdoors.

Literacy

We are continuing our daily phonics learning, in and out of phonics lessons. We are working very hard to practise and refine our understanding of red words, blending and special friends.

As part of our topic this term, we are also reading a variety of books all about growing. Titles such as *The Tiny Seed* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Additionally, we are working very hard to write in full sentences in and out of our phonics learning and are continually using our taught sounds to help us become more confident writers.

How to help at home...

Make sure you are reading with your child daily at home and ensure you are recording this in your child's learning journal. After reading, ask your child some key questions about the story. What happened first?

What happened next?

We will be sending out some very useful phonics QR codes for Fred Games to share with your child, to help continue practising their Fred talk and blending.

Maths

Children are having daily Numbersense sessions to ensure they are fluent with numbers up to 10. Weekly, we will share our number of the week with parents and carers to ensure learning and conversation can be had about our weekly number focus. Activities and focuses we will be having include counting confidently beyond 10, simple addition and take away to 10, subitising amounts to 5, comparing size, height, length and capacity and exploring number patterns such as doubling and halving.

How to help at home...

Share and discuss the number of the week with your child. You can find this information on Tapestry.

Other ideas:

- Count objects during everyday activities.
- Talk about heavier/lighter and taller/shorter
- Play simple maths games using physical objects and a useful website called Topmarks.
- Watch Numberblocks series 1 and 2 on BBC iPlayer.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our children love to be creative, it is always their favorite activity to do! To help take their learning further this term, we are enhancing our indoor and outdoor role-play areas to line up with cultural celebrations and compliment our topic. We are providing lots of growing themed role play opportunities like a farm shop and a mini garden centre.

We are also creating art inspired by nature and what we can see by using a variety of media and materials.

In Music, we are developing our understanding patterns and rhythms by using a variety of instruments like the cymbal and clave to help develop our rhythm and sound association.

How to help at home...

Encourage your child to draw, paint and junk model at home, especially by what they can see outside during spring and summer time. Always focus on the creativity your child is showing, not the end product. Sing songs like our weekly nursery rhymes and listen carefully to the beat of each rhyme.



Understanding the World

We will be looking closely at life cycles as part of our topic this term. We will observe how living things grow and change over time and learn to care for animals and plants. We will be planting cress, herbs and sunflowers and learn the importance of growing and how to care for them independently. We will look after ducklings and develop awareness of how to care for living things from eggs to ducklings. We will also observe the natural changes from spring into summer and discuss what happens during this time and what we can see around us.

A lot of celebrations are coming up such as St. George's Day, VE Day and Eid. We will explore these through a variety of learning through play opportunities and stories.

How to help at home...

To help develop your child's vocabulary for our topic, it would be a good idea to go on a nature walk to spot signs of spring and summer. You can also plant seeds and observe the changes together. An easy to grow plant is cress and this can be done indoors or outdoors. The key is to engage your child's imagination and curiosity about the world around them and always be open to questions and new experiences.

