

A note from the Reception team...

The final term of the school year is upon us and we are really looking forward to an exciting few months with the children. The children have come back after Easter with an eagerness to engage in all aspects of learning throughout the day! Over the next few of weeks, we will start to make changes in the classroom to reflect the style of teaching and learning in Year 1. This is to support with transition to the next year group in September. The children have enjoyed completing short writing activities at the tables recently and are gaining more independence in their learning. This will extend into other areas of the curriculum where appropriate, such as maths and phonics Children will still have extended periods of play within the indoor and outdoor learning environments throughout the day. Please see below for information on the summer term curriculum.

Learning Theme- 'Watch me grow!'

As a starting point for our learning throughout the summer term we will build on the knowledge children learned throughout our farm theme last half term.

Children will learn that not only animals are kept on a farm, but plants (foods) are also grown on farms. We will sort and categorise fruits and vegetables and learn about how some fruits and vegetables can be grown in gardens. We will be developing a growing area in the outdoor classroom. The children will plant seeds and care for them as they watch them grow. This theme fits perfectly with our focus text in Literacy: 'The Extraordinary Gardener'

The children will also think and learn about how they have grown and changed since they were a baby. They will compare what they can do now to then.

Further learning about gardens will be explored by thinking about what insects and minibeasts can be found in a garden. Again, we will learn about the different types of mini beasts and sort and categorise them eg. Can fly, can crawl, can slither etc. We will go on a mini beast hunt in Amberswood and the children will learn in particular about the life cycle of a butterfly- with the chance to watch caterpillars grow, make their chrysalis and then transform to butterflies!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- We will learn about how to keep our bodies healthy
- We will learn how to build constructive and respectful relationships.
- We will build confidence in trying new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance.
- Our My Happy Mind unit is 'Engage'

Communication and Language

- We will learn lots of new vocabulary linked to our theme eg. seed, bean, nutrients, life cycle, chrysalis, transform
- We will use new vocabulary in different contexts, particularly when explaining and describing events and how things work/change
- We will use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities

Physical Development

- In PE we will focus on 'Tennis' and 'Games'
- We will learn how to move in different ways to retrieve a ball
- We will stop a ball using our hands
- We will develop over and under arm throwing motions

Fine Motor Development:

We will develop our handwriting skills, ensuring letters are formed correctly.

Literacy

Some of our story time texts this term will include 'Jack and the beanstalk' 'Mad about minibeasts' 'Superworm' and 'The very hungry caterpillar' Various non-fiction books about growing foods and insects found in the garden will be shared

Phonics

We will begin Phase 4 where the children will read slightly longer words (CVCC and CCVC eg. sand, spin)

Maths

- We will move on to recognising and counting numbers to 20.
- We will focus on skills of doubling, sharing and halving.
- We will work on mastering our understanding of number bonds to 5 and 10.
- We will gain a deeper understanding of odd and even numbers, 3D shapes and capacity

Understanding the world

- We will explore the seasonal changes Spring to Summer
- We will plant seeds, care for them, watch them grow and keep a record of their changes.
- We will observe caterpillars, butterflies, snails, worms etc and discuss their similarities and differences
- We will think about how humans (ourselves) grow and change

Expressive Arts and Design

- We will design and make our own mini beast houses
- We will explore the properties of clay and manipulate clay to make our own minibeasts
- We will use paint to explore symmetrical patterns of butterflies.
- We will sing lots of songs linked to insects and mini beasts eg. There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, Incy, wincy, spider, Mary, Mary, quite contrary.

Other curriculum information:

-Amberswood: This term we will visit Amberswood to look for insects and mini beasts. We will also visit to observe how the trees have changed in Summer.

-RE: The themes we will look at this term are 'What makes a place holy?' and 'How do we celebrate special times? We will be visiting St Nathaniel's church. Date TBC

We will also look at the celebrations of St George's Day.

-PE: Please continue to send your child to school wearing their PE kits on Fridays.

-Summer Term Trip- Ainsdale beach. Date to TBC

Other information:

Home Reading – Phonics reading books sent home on **Fridays**. These are the books for your child to read to practice their phonics skills. Please make sure you listen to your child read **at least three times per week**. These books need to be returned to school the following **Wednesday**. Reading diaries are checked and monitored each week. Please make sure you sign in your child's diary when you have read with your child. Library books will be changed on Wednesdays- these are the books for you to read to your child as a 'sharing story' Please return each **Wednesday** so that a new one can be sent home the same day.

Water bottles- Please only send only **water** in your child's water bottle for school.

Warm Weather- Please ensure your child brings a sun hat to school and is wearing sun cream on days when needed.