

## Reception – Spring 2

### Topic – Watch Them Grow

It's time to step into spring with our exciting new topic, 'Watch Them Grow'. This topic is perfectly timed to engage our learners in exploring new life as the seasons change. The children will look at our world as a special place and consider how we can take care of living things around us.

### Communication and Language (Speaking and Listening)

We have a superb selection of fiction and non-fiction texts lined up to develop the children's curiosity and knowledge of growth and change, and we will continue to introduce the children to lots of adventurous vocabulary, known as the 'Wondrous Words,' that they can use in action during their play.

Our role play area will transform into a Garden Centre to encourage the children in their discussion in real life situations, as well as ample opportunities to act out their own storylines in pretend play. We will continue to support the children to speak in full sentences through modelling in conversation to encourage a higher level of vocabulary. We will use speech to organise, sequence and clarify our thinking, feelings, and ideas. We will have lots of fun with language, making up stories in the small world area, pretending to be different people in the role play using different voices, and making up silly rhymes to share with our friends. Children who need a further boost in their confidence and articulation will take part in small group sessions.

### Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Children will continue to be taught phonics daily in progress groups. Each day, they will practise oral blending to read words containing the sounds they know before reading simple texts matched to their current skills. The children will continue to build a bank of red words that they learn to recognise by sight. In writing, we will continue to have fun learning the alphabet, including learning the names of the letters and practise the correct formation of letters, including capital letters. We will use Fred Fingers to segment words for spelling by saying the sounds that make a word before writing them. We will learn to hold a simple sentence in our head before attempting to write it. There are also countless opportunities for the children to try out their developing writing skills for purpose and pleasure in our environment, both indoors and outdoors.

Storytime continues to be a huge highlight of our day and the children vote for the story they would like to hear. As well as sharing stories daily, we have fun reading and joining in with poems and rhymes, as well as engaging and looking in non-fiction books to develop our vocabulary and expand our knowledge of the world around us. We will continue to talk about what we read, express preferences when choosing books and answer questions to show our understanding. Children will continue to choose a class library book to bring home each week to share their favourite stories with you at home.

## **Maths (Number and Shape, Space and Measure)**

As our confidence with numbers grows, we will compare and order numbers to 10 this half term, exploring number in all areas of our learning environment. We will study the composition of 10, representing it in different ways and using number sentences to demonstrate our understanding. We will work on securing the number bonds for all numbers to 10, aiming for rapid recall.

2d and 3d shape work will continue, as we will learn to select, rotate, and manipulate shapes to develop spatial reasoning skills. We will learn to compose and decompose 3d shapes, recognising a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can. Patterns in the environment will be explored as we continue, copy, and create our own repeating patterns using a range of mathematical and natural resources in the learning environment.

## **Personal Development (P.S.H.E.)**

After reaching the halfway point in reception class, the children are now confident in the rules, routines, and expectations within the learning environment. We will further promote and encourage independence in learning and play, as well as the values of resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. To ensure they can enjoy constructive, respectful relationships, we will support the children to take turns and play co-operatively, encouraging others to join in and showing sensitivity to the feelings of others.

In PSHE, we will learn about our bodies and how to stay healthy. We will sort foods, understanding some are healthier than others, as well as discussing the importance of sleep and handwashing as part of our daily routines. Focusing on safety, we will discuss 'stranger danger' and ensure we know what to do if we are approached by someone we don't know.

## **Understanding the World (Geography, History, Science and Computing)**

As scientists, we will explore our natural world and how we can best take care of it. We will focus on the life cycles of animals and plants, including frogs, butterflies, and sunflowers. We will enjoy planting seeds and make observations and drawings of plants, considering what they need to thrive. Using apples as a focus, we will develop an understanding of growth decay and study changes over time.

Using our own baby photographs, we will develop a sense of chronology as we create timelines of our development, noticing what we can do now compared to when we were babies. We will make simple maps to show journeys we make around our school area. As always, we will draw on our love of books, to expand our knowledge using high-quality stories and non-fiction texts.

In computing, we will develop independence in logging in and out of programmes safely. We will focus on using paint programs with greater confidence to produce pictures linked to our learning. We will access enjoyable activities on Purple Mash to enhance our learning of growing, plants, and animals, as well as other areas of the curriculum including music, all the while, learning to use technology safely and responsibly.

## **Expressive Arts (Art and Music)**

We love to create and design in Early Years and this half term we will focus on 'collage' as we explore cutting and sticking using a range of materials tools and techniques. We will develop our scissor skills as we learn to follow cutting lines and explore cutting up strips, shapes, mouldable materials and making holes. To express ourselves through our creations, we will experiment with colour, design, texture, form, and function. As designers, we will invent a new plant design and bring it to life using materials of our choice.

Music is a daily part of EYFS. We love singing rhymes and songs linked to our topics and it provides an opportunity to explore and express our emotions. We will have lots of opportunities to listen to, discuss and move to a range of musical genres, as well as exploring instruments creatively both indoors and outdoors to make our own songs, taking to the stage to perform!

## **Physical Development (P.E.)**

In our fundamental skills sessions, the children will develop their fundamental movement skills through the topic of 'all about me'. Fundamental skills will include balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and travelling. Children will develop gross motor skills through a range of activities. They will learn how to stay safe using space, follow rules, instructions, and work independently and with a partner.

## **Religious Education (R.E.)**

We continue our study of Special Places this half term. As we explore special places at home, school and within the community, we will reflect on the feelings we share in these places, such as togetherness, belonging, awe and wonder, feeling safe and calm. We look forward to visiting the local church to explore the wonderful building and look at its features. Studying signs of spring and new life will lead us into the study of Easter. We will learn the Easter story and why the celebration is special to Christians, learning the symbolism of Easter eggs and hot cross buns along the way.