

**Main Learning themes for the term:**

In Early years our topic for the first half of term is 'Growing'. We will look at all sorts of things that grow... people, plants and animals. We will have our own caterpillars in the classroom for the children to observe as they grow. We will be keeping a diary to document the changes and this will help develop the children's understanding of a life cycle. The children will devise their own questions for what they would like to find out about growing and much of our learning will centre around this.

During the second half of term our topic is 'All around us'. We will focus our learning on looking after our environment, recycling and examine a greater range of mini-beasts and their habitats. Again the children will have opportunities to ask their own questions and this will help guide the learning.

Prime areas of learning:**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

- Embedding the class charter, agreeing and reviewing our rights and responsibilities around the classroom.
- Developing the relationships between the children in the class, naming feelings and reviewing how to reach resolutions when we have different ideas.

Communication and Language:

- Extending the children's concentration when listening and develop their use of talk to organise what they plan to do.
- Holding conversations, responding with questions and comments, extending vocabulary and expressing ideas.

Physical Development:

- Extending the children's fine and gross motor skills.
- Encouraging independence in self-help tasks- doing buttons up and getting changed for P.E.
- Continuing our gymnastics skills and developing games skills involving throwing and catching, hitting balls with bats and football.

Specific areas of learning:**Key Literacy Learning:**

- Through our letters and sounds sessions we will begin phase 4, applying the digraphs and blends we have learnt.
- Developing the skills of blending sounds in short words and developing skills to read longer words.
- Continuing to practice writing letters using the correct formation and introducing capital letters.
- Developing segmenting skills when sounding out words when writing sentences.
- Encouraging independent writing.

Key Maths Learning:

- Consolidating subitising skills, counting accurately, composition, comparing and ordering.
- Building numbers beyond 10 and understanding place value.
- Problem solving using adding and subtracting and looking for number patterns.
- Manipulating shapes and using positional language.

Understanding the World:

- Looking at the different changing stages of things that grow.
- Looking at different types of environments that humans and animals live in.
- Using programmable toys such as the Beebots to introduce coding.

Expressive Arts and Design:

- Singing familiar and new songs and rhymes.

- Painting, printing, collage, junk modelling and sketching.
- Role-play in the 'Garden Centre'.

Opportunities to support from home:

- Sharing reading books.
- Word pockets/letter pockets
- Maths home learning pocket
- Reading and spelling 'Tricky' words
- Responding and contributing to your child's Tapestry learning journal