

Dear Parents and carers

Welcome back, we hope everyone had a lovely Easter holiday and you are all safe and well after eating all that chocolate! In Nursery this half term our question focus is all about 'What is growing in the garden?' Our main role play area is going to be a Mini Beast area where the children can dress up as Mini beast and explore our Investigation tray. We also have live Caterpillars that we will watch as they change into Butterflies.

We will also be having a building area where the children can make story settings with characters and various other role play objects to develop their stories.

We kept the Puppet Theatre from Spring 2 as the children were enjoying putting on story shows for their friends. I have made it into a 'Jack and the beanstalk' setting to start with, so be ready for lots of 'Fee, fi, fo fum's'.

Outside we will be growing lots of plants in our garden plot and looking for mini beasts on the plants. We will also be making a Garden centre in our outdoor play area.

Our phonics will begin with a recap on initial sounds and then we will move on to sounding out cvc words such as s-u-n, c-a-p and h-i-p. Get ready for lots of eye spy games and Metal Mike robot talking, it is great fun when you first learn to spell, so please play along with your child when you can. The Metal Mike and Silly soup games we have already sent home can be used to support both initial sounds and cvc word development.

Maths this half term will begin with counting objects, recognising numbers and writing numbers. You can support this at home by counting objects and actions such as steps to bed and then looking around your home for numbers. Writing numbers outside with chunky chalks is always lots of fun. We will then move on to recognising and making pictures with 2D shapes and then identifying 3D shapes in our everyday environment. When our plants have started to grow we will be ordering them by size and measuring their height using non-standard measures like cubes or number of hands tall a plant is. Don't forget to send pictures of your Sunflower plant growing at home so that we can see whose is the biggest.

Week 1+2 During the first two weeks we will be learning all about the life cycle of a Caterpillar. We have 5 live Caterpillars in Nursery that we will watch develop into Butterflies and learn how to take care of them. We will also be going on a Mini beast hunt on the field and in the garden area using magnifying glasses to help us see the creatures up close. Hopefully before the last day of the half term our caterpillars will have transformed into Butterflies and we will be able to release them on the school field.

For our fine motor and creative development we will be sewing pictures of flowers, this will take some time as it is a 1-1 activity.

In Week 2 on 23rd April it is St. Georges Day, we will be learning about St George in Nursery and making a Fire breathing dragon in our creative session.

Week 3 This week we will be learning all about the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will be planting our own beans in a clear cup so that we can watch the bean split and the roots then shoots develop. We will then transplant them into the garden plot so that the new beans pods can grow. We will also be planting Sunflower seeds, while they are still at a safe height to transport, we will let you take them home to continue growing in your gardens. This is where the competitive spirit begins as you will be able to keep us informed on the height of your sunflower as it grows.

We will make a display focusing on the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', so the children will be painting the different sized characters from the story so that we can add all the different words they can think of that mean 'big, medium and small'.

Week 4+5 We will continue with our Gardening activities, planting seeds, bulbs and flowers. We will also be growing cress and keeping a daily photographic diary of its growth. When the children bring their cress home why don't you try making an egg and cress sandwich together, they are really delicious! (Monday 3rd May is a Bank holiday so no school that day).

We will also be making a carrot cake and a rhubarb crumble to show the children how we use the produce from the garden to feed ourselves. Hopefully we will have time to make crisps as the children enjoy the process of digging up the potatoes to cleaning them, cooking them and then adding the flavour before eating them.

The Great British Spring Clean has taken place recently so we want to do our bit by keeping our School environment clean. We will be using the litter grabbers to collect the rubbish and then talking about what the people who dropped the rubbish should have done.

Week 6 We will focus on the book 'The Enormous Turnip' as we learn what plants need to grow and enjoy acting out the story with a large Turnip on the field. We will be doing lots of measuring to see whose sunflower is the smallest/ tallest and notice any that are the same height.

Advanced warning!! Make a space on your fridge for a master piece! As we will be painting our own version of Van Gogh's Sunflower's. We will be doing an observational painting of some fresh Sunflowers in the class. The Sewing pictures will also be ready soon so make it a big space.

Week 7 During this final week we will be learning about human growth, we will need your support with the homework task, as we will be asking you to send pictures of your family from different generations. By this I mean your child, a parent, a grandparent and some may still be lucky enough to have Great grandparent. We will also be measuring the bean plants and Sunflower's we have been growing in the garden again.

We will also be seeing how clever we are at hopping, skipping, jumping and running now that we are no longer toddlers.

General -Please remember to return learning journals each week on Mondays, so that we can have your child's input on the week's topic. This should be your child's work with a little support from an adult. Please also remember to always send your child with a coat as the weather can change during the day and make sure your child's name is on all their clothing.

Don't forget that if you have a problem or question about Nursery, please speak to Mrs Haycock.

Thank you for your continued support
Mrs Haycock, Mrs Newby and Ms Foster
Your Nursery team.