

WHAT CAN WE GROW?

This half term we will be exploring this learning question. Our learning will journey through life cycles of plants, concept of time, where our food comes from and so much more. We have planned exciting and deep learning opportunities for the children and we will also honour their interests and fascinations.



Every week

We encourage as much reading to children as possible to instil a lifelong love of books and reading.

Encourage mark making and writing in fun and engaging ways, using the child's interest and fun fine motor activities – [Building Fine Motor Skills Through Play](#)

Support your child to recognise their name – [Creative ideas to help](#)



When hearing and recognising sounds with your children in everyday activities and on adventures, please remember to use pure sounds – [How to pronounce pure sounds](#)

We love seeing what you are learning and playing at home, please upload to Tapestry. It doesn't have to be something from this learning at home grid or related to our topic. We love seeing and sharing all learning, experiences and adventures.

Reading

Our focus texts this half term are to the right. We will spark interest with exciting hooks and delve into the text together.

At home, delve into books together and talk about them in detail. Do your children see you reading? Share what you are reading with them.

Look out for a short video on Tapestry about dialogic book talk and making the most of reading at home. Maximising children's learning whilst having an absolute ball!



Writing

It is essential at this stage of the children's writing journey to not push for too much too soon. Children need good gross motor and fine motor control, alongside expressive language to enable them to write.

The fine motor and name ideas above will support your child well.

Here is a playlist of warm ups we use at school to develop gross and fine motor strength in preparation for writing – [Handwriting Warm Ups PenPals](#)

Letter Formation: We have been practising name writing one letter at a time and will continue this. Building confidence and correct letter formation to establish this early and instil confidence in all children.

Speaking and Listening

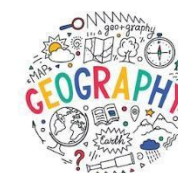
Storytelling is a central focus in Nursery and we will be spending even more time in Story Land this half term. Try it at home.

1. Put some music on – we like using the 'UP' theme tune
2. Choose a character, item and a setting (it is useful to have these as a visual)
3. Together, create your adventure and tell a story.
4. Write your child's story down, remember whatever they create is magical and leave our own agendas behind. Let them see you writing their story down and valuing their word.
5. Revisit the stories you have created together



Geography

Can you develop your map making skills by making a map of somewhere in your local area?



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Science

As we eagerly await the arrival of spring, discuss the changes of weather and seasons at home. What do you notice around you? Why have flowers/plants started to grow?

Why not have a go at growing your own cress at home. It is really simple yet will also provide so much fun, curiosity and exploration. Your child will learn how to plant seeds, watch and discuss the changes and understand how to care for them. You can also discuss the effects of light and dark. As an end result you can enjoy the cress together.

Here is a link to make your own cress caterpillar...

[Cress Caterpillar](#)

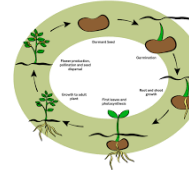


ICT

Research the life cycle of a plant. Can you make a short video on Tapestry to tell us what you have found out?

Can you take photographs of the plants and flowers that you have noticed growing around you in your garden, when visiting the park, or on your journey to school?

It would be great if you could post some of them on tapestry so that we can look at them at carpet time together! ☺



Get active

With the weather hopefully starting to improve this is the ideal time to get outside and get active! Use the opportunity to go to the park and develop gross motor skills by climbing, balancing, running and jumping. Although you might not think it, developing these skills actually helps with writing too!



For those days where the weather isn't great and outside looks less appealing there are some suggestions below ...

[Jack and the Beanstalk Yoga](#)

Go on a shape / number / letter hunt in the outdoor environment. Can you find any letters from your name? Can you find the number for your age? You could even write down what you have found – clipboards are great for exploring outdoors and incorporating mark making into active learning...have fun and enjoy being outdoors!



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Maths

This half term we will be learning about shapes.

2D – circle, square, triangle, rectangle

3D – cube, cuboid.

We will be using mathematical vocabulary to talk about what we can see: sides, corners, straight, flat, round. **Go on a shape hunt and describe which shapes you have found.**

We will be making comparisons between the size, length, weight and capacity of different objects and talking about what we have found out. **Can you find different things to compare at home? Post your comparisons on Tapestry for us to share with your friends in class.**

We will, of course, continue to recap and reinforce learning about and understanding numbers to 5 within our daily learning – please continue to support your children with this at home too.

Art D&T

Use some leaves or petals, or anything that you can find on a nature walk in the park, to make a collage. You will need some glue and paper. What will your picture be of?



D&T:

Make a mini greenhouse for your beans to start growing in. Use a plastic fruit carton from the supermarket and put some cling film over the top, with some holes in. Put some soil in and plant your beans. They will need to be placed on a sunny windowsill.



Music

This song has the tune of “For he’s a jolly good fellow”. Practise at home. You can even change the words or make up your own verses!

We dig a hole in the garden (x3) to plant our little seed

We plant a seed in the garden (x3) and cover it with earth

We water our seed in the garden (x3) and wait for it to grow

A stalk grows in the garden (x3) and then some leaves grow.....

What will your words be? Can you make a video of your song and post it on tapestry? Can you add some percussion instruments? How about using something at home as a drum (like a pan and wooden spoon) or a shaker (maybe an empty yoghurt pot with some rice inside). Have fun!

Phonics

This half term we will be concentrating on alliteration and voice sounds.

- Alliteration – To listen to sounds at the beginning of words and hear the differences between them.
- Voice Sounds – To distinguish between the difference in vocal sounds and to explore speech sounds.

We will also start to work on developing the skill of oral segmenting and blending of sounds in words.

Here is a fun activity that you can do at home to promote this at home,

Have a bag with a selection of items inside. (use items that are made up of a CVC word, e.g pen, mug, hat Use a Puppet/Teddy/Doll. Puppet peeps into the bag and sound talks (segments) an object e.g. m-u-g. Ask the children what the puppet is saying, the puppet then gets the object and nods their head to say they are right or to try again.



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