



# WHAT IS UNDER THE SEA?

THIS HALF TERM WE WILL DIVE DEEP INTO LEARNING ALL ABOUT OUR OCEANS.



## 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.

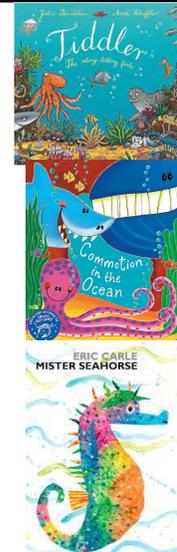
## Reading

These are our focus texts for Sum one.

What other books do you love linked to our Under the Sea theme?

Could you share them with us on Tapestry so we can enjoy them together in class.

What creative stories could you tell at home? Go on an under the sea adventure to storytelling.



## 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

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

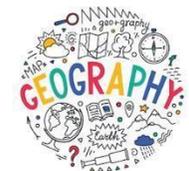
[Attenborough's Message for World ocean Day](#)

Watch David Attenborough's clip up until 1.30 mins.

**\*please be aware from 1.30 mins the video moves to a more sombre feel, talking about how humans have taken the oceans for granted. We want to forewarn you of this as it is a family choice whether you want your child to be exposed to this.**

Use the clip, up until 1.30 mins to talk about how important the oceans are for us as humans and for animals. What similarities and differences are there between ocean and land? How deep can we dive into the ocean? What would life be like under the sea?

There is so much opportunity for talk and learning through this clip.



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## Science

Investigate other sea life e.g. in coral reefs, deep sea, the arctic (making links to our previous topic). Discuss how these creatures are adapted to survive in different conditions.

You could visit the coast, a local pond/stream and discuss what you may find living there.

Discussion point - are people causing problems for sea life with pollution/plastics etc. What can we do to help?

Why not have a go at making a under the sea sensory jar, <https://www.science-sparks.com/under-the-sea-activity-ideas/>



## ICT

Research which creatures live under the sea. Can you make a video on Tapestry to tell us what you have found out? Which is your favourite sea creature?



## Get active

Enjoy being outdoors - go on bike rides, scoot along in the sunshine (hopefully!) about the changes that are happening you.



walks or  
and talk  
around

For those 'April Showers' kind of days, enjoy a Cosmic yoga session .....[Under the Sea](#)

OR .....

Put on your waterproof suit, your wellies and go and jump in the puddles - 2 feet jumps are a great way to build muscle strength, improve balance and even improve bone strength in young children ..... and best of all - it's great fun!



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## Maths

This half term we will be learning about positional language, describing routes and embedding numbers starting with number 1!

Play some games at home hiding a favourite toy / teddy. Start by the parent / carer hiding the toy and giving clues as to where it is using the following vocabulary: under, on top, beside / next to, behind, in front, between. Once your child is good at following your clues then swap for them to hide the toy and use the language above to give you clues as to where to find it. Watch and sing ['Where's the Monkey?'](#)

We will also be consolidating and embedding our knowledge of numbers by



- Recognising numerals and Numicon pieces
- Understanding their position in the number system (before / after)
- Knowing what they represent (quantity)
- Linking to the ordinal number (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc)

## Art D&T

You could draw some sea creatures using wax crayons, and then do a wash of watery blue paint over the top, to make an under-water scene.

### D&T:

You could care for the creatures in the ocean by using recycled plastic bottles or other recycled waste to make sea creatures or other objects. This way, you are making sure that more rubbish doesn't end up in the water, and you are creating something fabulous at the same time! Win win!



## Music

Here is a great song to get you in the mood for our new topic: *Come Dive with Me Under the Sea*

[Under the Sea song for kids | Sea Animals Song for children | Lear...](#)

Can you move like each of the sea creatures? You could make a musical instrument and see if you can play along, keeping time to the music. Here are some quick and simple ideas for percussion instruments:

Plastic water bottle containing dried peas, rice or lentils as a shaker  
 Upturned pan or plastic bowl with wooden spoon as a drum.

## Phonics

This half term we will be consolidating all aspects of Phase 1, especially rhythm and rhyme and alliteration. Enjoy rhyming stories together, recognising the words that rhyme.

Can you make names for your toys at home using alliteration, e.g Tia the terrific tiger.

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

Here is a useful website for Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities...

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>



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In Nursery, we also love to move to music holding a piece of ribbon. If you have a piece of ribbon at home, this would be a lovely thing to do, especially as it might look like the waves in the sea! 😊

