

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Communication and Language

-Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play

This term we will be looking at traditional tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk and Little Red Hen. The home corner has been set up into our very own garden centre which gives the children the perfect setting for the children to roleplay real life situations and encourage the children to act out and incorporate our traditional tales into their play.

-Extends vocabulary, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.

Please see the Word bank on the back to get an insight to the new vocabulary the children will be introduced to and encouraged to use this term.

Personal, Social & Emotional

- Explains own knowledge and understanding, and asks appropriate questions of others.

As we plant and observe, we will be giving the children lots of opportunities to discuss their learnt knowledge throughout the term. As we encourage the children to become more independent, we also want them to think of who they can go to for answering any questions they may have.

Physical Development

-Eats a healthy range of foodstuffs and understands need for variety in food.

Whilst we plant a variety of different fruit and vegetables, it gives us a great opportunity for the children to think about what they should be eating to stay strong and healthy. We will also look at different animals, and their diets, compared to our own.

PE will continue to take place every Wednesday morning so please make sure all PE kits are in, hung up on your child's peg.



This term our topic is How Does Your Garden Grow?

We will be planting and observing our own seeds along with looking at how animals, including humans, grow and their different habitats.

Mathematics

We have started off by learning all about 3D shapes, learning and using some important vocabulary such as 'vertices' and 'edges'. We will then move on to calendar and time, looking at days of the week and sequencing daily events and progress into numbers up to 15; learning strategies to complete addition and subtraction and recognising different representations.

Literacy

We will be reading a range of fiction books this term such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Supertato. These will influence our daily Literacy lessons where we will be using our expanding phonics knowledge to write captions for our favourite healthy meals, sequence known stories as well as innovating these to create our own versions with story maps and actions.

We will continue with our daily phonics sessions, completing our Phase 2 sounds before moving on to Phase 3 in Spring 2.

Expressive Arts and Design

-understands that different media can be combined to create new effects

The children will be introduced to the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo and try to create their own self portrait inspired by his funny techniques using different food and plants. We will also put our fine motor skills to use by creating our own folding caterpillars and designing a superhero cape for our own Supertato!

-Begins to build a repertoire of songs and dances

As we think about the process of a caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly, the children will be given the opportunity to recreate the process with body movements. As you know, we are all beautiful singers and will continue to learn different nursery rhymes such as Mary, Mary Quite Contrary and There's a Tiny Caterpillar On a Leaf. Ask the children to perform for you at home.

Understanding the World

- Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.

This topic is perfect for the children to join in with some in-depth observation. Each child will be planting their own bean and encouraged every week to investigate how the bean will change over time. We also hope to get our own caterpillars in class so the children can discover how they change first hand. We will be going on many mini-beast hunts in our garden and keeping our fingers crossed to see some wildlife in our pond as the term goes on.

After the half term holiday we will look more in depth into different habitats or animals, giving opportunity for lots of discussion in the difference to animals and humans. We will also be thinking a lot about healthy food and how different animals and humans may have different diets.

- interacts with age-appropriate computer software

Taking daily and weekly photos on the class iPads will be a great way this term to help with our observations. Make sure you check out our photography skills in our new Understanding the World floor book in class.

Out and About Timetable

Thursday 16th January—Trip to local supermarket for fruit kebab ingredients

Thursday 30th January—Number Walk around the local area

Thursday 13th February—Join us to help get our garden ready for some planting

Zoo trip Friday 20th March—letter and permission slips to follow

If you are able to offer your time and accompany us on any of our Out and About activities please see the sign up sheet outside of the reception classroom or see Miss Bridgeman.

Ideas for

Try making a model of a flower. You could use playdough, paper or card, construction toys, empty cardboard tubes and boxes. Think about how you could make the stem, the flower and the leaves. We would love to see any models you make!

Whilst you are out walking, look carefully to see what plants and flowers you can see growing. You could take some pictures of the things you see.

Try growing some plants or flowers at home. You could experiment and see where the seeds grow best; somewhere sunny or in the dark. Cress seeds grow quite quickly or you could try planting some flowers.

Visit one of our local farms to have a think where we may get food from. Stepney Farm host their own allotments, can you see any fruit and vegetables growing there?

Go on a minibeast hunt! What creatures can you find and where do they live? Make sure to share all your knowledge in class!

Vocabulary

