

# Early Years Newsletter Summer 2024



Growing & Changing  
Mini-beasts  
Healthy Eating  
People who help us

**Early Years Staff Team:** Mrs Hardie, Mrs Di Fonzo and Miss Mockridge

## Welcome to the Summer Term

This half term, we will begin by thinking about traditional stories with castles in, which will also link to thinking about where we live and look at globes/atlases and St. Georges Day. Following on we will be linking our Spring traditional story focus with growth and changes in nature with Jack and the Beanstalk. We will also plant some beans, tomatoes and other seeds. We will be going on a trip to Ashridge estate to consolidate and enhance some of our growing and nature learning (see separate letter). After this we will be learning about frog and human life cycles, mini-beasts... then also healthy eating (linked to the Hungry Caterpillar's diet!). Later this term, we will finish with learning about 'People who help us' and summer activities. We will also be preparing for transition.

### Literacy & Communication and Language

We will be reading other castle stories including Sleeping Beauty, George and the Dragon (linked to St. George's Day) and Jack and the Beanstalk alongside books / castle stories and retelling them with puppets and small world items. We will be looking at life cycles of some plants and animals including humans. We will be reading Titch and non-fiction books. We will also be reading Eric Carle stories (e.g. 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Very Busy Spider' and 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird') and non-fiction / factual books too.

We will be reading some non-fiction People who help us/job based texts and stories. We will be talking about changes and thinking of the similarities and differences between our current year and next year at school. Children will have their library books changed weekly, usually on a Monday. Reception children will also be focussing on their phonics and reading - they will have their reading books changed weekly. They will take home decodable Little Wandle phonics books. Mrs Hardie is focussing on Guided Reading too (in small groups also with Little Wandle books) which started in the Spring Term.

### Maths

Nursery children are revising 2D shapes, counting 1 - 10, recognising numbers and grouping into sets. The children will consider days of the week and months (sequencing), compare height and length (e.g. giant footprints). Reception children will be ordering different items by length and height, as well as exploring measuring time, capacity and weight. They will be estimating and counting/problem solving/adding/subtracting/doubling/halving numbers to 20. We will also focus on using knowledge of number bonds to 5 and subitising (recognising amounts to 10). Reception will also re-visit shape.

## Understanding of the World

R.E. learning that is part of this will include 'special places and special people' (linking to human life cycle and people who help us activities and topics) and 'change / life journeys/current festivals linked to some faiths.

For History and Geography foci we will be contrasting where we live with other places in the world and thinking about similarities and differences between places and people that we know and who are in our family. We will be thinking about what culture means and talk about some traditions.

We will be observing Nature using our senses and thinking about what animals and plants need to survive linked to our trip. We will be talking about patterns and changes the children notice in things we grow. We will be continuing to look at / talk about life cycles related to butterflies. We will find out which foods are good for us to eat (fruit and vegetables) and which foods we shouldn't eat too many of (cakes and other treats). We will look at how to stay healthy, with a focus on exercise as Sports Day draws near.

We will look at the people who help us. We will also practise some early practical computing skills and look at bee bots, chrome books and iPads in small groups.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Through music, dance, painting, drawing and other media we will be working with the children to explore their experiences and talk about what they have created.

## Physical Development

We will use our updated (!) outside area and field for developing physical skills in our own learning time and outdoor learning (Forest School). We will also continue to develop games' skills.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We continue to encourage children to be confident in their abilities. We also have circle times to discuss our feelings. We will focus especially on hygiene and oral health. In our weekly PSHE 'Jigsaw Jenie' time we will be focussing on Relationships (including family and friends) and 'Changing Me.'

We would be very grateful for a contribution of £15 per child for consumables this term. Please pay this amount via Arbor/School Shop. Thank you.

Please also remember to **name** all items of clothing and leave all toys at home unless in MME box in Reception!

Thank you ☺

