

Our Amazing Planet- Spring Overview

Class 1

This term in Class One, we will be exploring the exciting topic “Our Amazing Planet.” We will read stories about different creatures that live in the rainforests and the Arctic, and we will compare their habitats and learn how they adapt to these extreme environments. We will also explore the impact of humans on our animal friends, focusing on global warming and deforestation.

In Science, we will investigate the properties of different materials and link this to our work on recycling. We will also look carefully at the effect of human activity on our planet and think about what we can do to help.

In Art, we will explore different ways of printing. We will experiment with a range of methods before creating our final masterpiece inspired by our topic.

Through Design Technology, we will do our own little bit to help the planet by making our very own reusable “bag for life.”

How can I help my child?

During the Spring term, **Nursery** children will continue to learn through play-based experiences that support their early development across all areas of learning.

A key focus will be on developing communication and language through the Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics programme, where children will enjoy sharing stories, rhymes and songs, tuning into sounds, and beginning to recognise and talk about different noises in their environment.

Alongside this, children will develop early number awareness by exploring counting through everyday routines, songs and practical activities, learning to notice quantities, compare amounts, and use simple mathematical language such as “more” and “less.”

We will also place a strong emphasis on developing fine motor skills through a range of activities such as threading, playdough, mark making and using small tools, helping children build the strength and control needed for writing. As their confidence grows, children will be encouraged to begin recognising and writing their name, supporting their early writing skills and independence.

You can support your child at home by reading stories together, talking about the plants, animals, and changes in nature they see outside, and encouraging creative activities like drawing and painting.

Reception children will be continuing to learn lots of new tricky digraphs and trigraphs each week, and we will be working hard to apply our phonics skills to our writing.

In writing this term, we will be looking at extending the children's sentences to include joining words such as and, as well as securing the basics of good sentence writing, ensuring that all sentences have finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We will also be encouraging the children to work more independently on their writing, before going back and polishing their work, with a little teacher guidance.

We are continuing to reinforce correct letter formation, as this is something all the children need a little extra work on.

Parents can support learning at home by encouraging their child to sound out and write simple words and sentences, and by sharing stories together. Talking about stories, practising letter formation little and often, and praising your child's efforts will help develop a positive attitude towards writing.

In the Spring term, Reception children will continue to develop their understanding of number through the Mastery in Number approach, which focuses on building deep, secure knowledge of early maths concepts. Children will explore numbers in a range of practical, hands-on ways, learning to recognise, compare and represent numbers confidently. They will develop a strong understanding of counting, including knowing that numbers represent quantities, and will begin to explore simple addition and subtraction through stories, songs and play. A key focus will be on understanding numbers to 10, noticing patterns, making comparisons such as more and fewer, and developing mathematical language. Children will be encouraged to explain their thinking, helping them build strong foundations for future maths learning.

You can support your child at home by talking about number in everyday life. "I can see 5 apples in the bowl, I know there is 5 as I can see 4 and one more." When adults naturally talk about numbers—such as counting steps, comparing amounts of snacks, or discussing prices—children begin to link abstract concepts to real-world experiences, supporting their development of early number sense.

Your continued support is much appreciated. Please don't hesitate to pop in if you would like any further help or support.

Mrs Lee