

St Thomas More R.C. Primary - Early Years
What I am Learning - Spring 2: All creatures great and small, Spring & Growth



Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
Communication & Language	<p>This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills through circle time activities and our focused carpet sessions. We will be talking about our themes and exploring, developing an understanding of and using new vocabulary linked to our theme. We will be encouraging the children to describe events, ask questions to further their own understanding and use the new vocabulary that they have learnt. We will be using a number of key texts throughout the half term linked to our theme and we will be encouraging the children to describe characters and settings and also ask lots of 'how' and 'why' questions about the factual information that we will be exploring through our theme.</p>	Mathematics	<p>Nursery - We will be continuing our daily maths sessions following the White Rose Maths Scheme. This half term we will be focussing on continuing with the early stages of seeing quantities of numbers (subitising), matching, sorting and comparing (amounts), creating sorting rules, size, mass, capacity and finding, subitising and represent 1/2/3. We will also be going to practically explore 'one more.'</p> <p>Reception - We will continue our daily maths sessions following the NCETM scheme. This half term we will be focussing on the principles of counting, describing the composition of numbers, more and less than (using Base 10 counting), ordering numerals, conceptual subitising, describing whole sets, making numbers with two parts and doubles/double patterns.</p>
Physical Development	<p>Our PE focus this half term will be 'Throw, Catch, Send and Receive.' We will be continuing to focus upon develop the children's fine and gross motor skills through our Dough Disco, Wiggle me into a Squiggler and Squiggle while you Wiggle sessions and through different activities linked to our theme. Linking with our key texts, we will explore different foods and how to keep our teeth and bodies healthy. For Reception children, our PE our focus will be 'Throw, Catch, Send and Receive.'</p>	Understanding the World	<p>We will continue to look at changes in our environment and seasonal changes and explore 'Spring.'</p> <p>We will also be revisiting maps and using technology and software to look at maps and explore them in detail, focussing on locations of the animal habitats.</p> <p>We will research and find out information about our theme and research facts about different animals, their life cycles, habitats, make comparisons and find out facts about them. We will explore a variety of animals and insects e.g. safari animals, minibeasts, farm animals etc. We will also be refreshing our outdoor area plants, and planting our own beans, monitoring their growth and taking care of them and create our class Easter Gardens.</p> <p>We will be preparing for Easter during this half term and finding out about Lent and how we can grow in Jesus' love during this time. We will also find out about Ramadan and Eid and develop our understanding of how and why this is celebrated.</p>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries. We will continue with circle time activities, modelling positive behaviours/friendships and discussing different aspects of our feelings. We will continue to explore our three school rules in more detail - Ready, Respectful & Safe and introduce our daily Recognition Board.</p>	Expressive Arts & Design	<p>We will be experimenting with different materials and creative techniques this half term. We will be painting portraits, collaging materials for our Resurrection Crosses, using different printing techniques to create animal prints, exploring with paper to create different effects e.g. concertina and using different textures and materials to create habitats.</p>

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	<p>We will be continuing with our 'MyHappyMind' sessions, and we will be further exploring our brains, practising 'happy breathing' and we will begin to explore the 'celebrate' module where we develop our understanding about how we are all special and wonderful and the uniqueness of ourselves, our kindness, bravery and how to be thankful.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Literacy</p>	<p>We will be exploring lots of key texts (Fiction and non-fiction) during this half term linked to our theme. We will be talking about stories, the characters, settings and making comparisons. We will also be focussing on learning lots of new words and terms linked to our theme. We will be exploring different mark making and writing opportunities this half term linked to our theme e.g. character descriptions, animal facts, life cycle sequences and instruction for planting.</p> <p>Nursery children will continue indiscreet phonics - Phase 1, focussing on exploring 'rhyme and rhyme alliteration.'</p> <p>Reception children will continue with their daily RWI Phonics sessions - links to the RWI Virtual Classroom sessions to support the daily lesson added to Tapestry weekly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RE</p>	<p>In our Religion work this half term we will be exploring 'Lent' and how we can grow in Jesus' love during this time. We will prepare for the start of Lent by exploring Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and the significance of these days. We will be talking about what we can do to be more like Jesus during Lent and we will be exploring the Easter story.</p> <p>We will also continue to explore our Catholic Social Teaching Characters and the principles they represent:</p> <p>Luc the deer - Human Dignity - Everyone is special Chikondi the giraffe - The Common Good - Thinking of everyone Patariki the penguin - Participation - Taking part Sid the sheep - Subsidiarity - Everyone should have a say Sofia the sloth - Stewardship - Caring for God's gifts Shristi the sun bear - Solidarity - Showing we care Poppy the popokotea - Preferential option for the poor - putting people most in need first DJ the dolphin - Sharing fairly - Distributive justice Daisy the dove - Promoting peace - Being peacemakers</p>