St Thomas More R.C. Primary – Early Years
What I am Learning – Spring 2: Sowing, Growing & Minibeasts

Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
Communication & Language	This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills and using lots of language to talk about our themes and explore and develop 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 minibeasts, recall facts about them, talk about habitats, life cycles, growth, change and also ask lots of 'how' and 'why' questions about the factual information that we will be exploring through our theme.	Mathematics	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 being to practically explore 'one more.' 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.
Physical Development	We will be continuing to focus upon develop the children's fine and gross motor skills during this half term and we will continue with Dough Disco, Wiggle me into a Squiggler and Squiggle while you Wiggle sessions. We will further develop our fine and motor skills through different activities linked to our theme. For Reception children, our PE our focus will be 'Throw, Catch, Send and Receive.' We will initially begin our PE work using beanbags and progress through the weeks to use soft balls, tennis balls and work on using an underarm throw.	Understanding the World	We will continue to look at changes in our environment and seasonal changes and explore 'Spring.' 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 also be refreshing our outdoor area plants, and planting our own beans, monitoring their growth and taking care of them. During Holy Week, we will also create our class Easter Gardens. We will be exploring the Natural World when we visit 'The Hive' during this half term and participate in workshops about 'Minibeasts' and 'Environmental Art.' 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.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries and we will continue to explore our three school rules in more detail – Ready, Respectful & Safe and introduce our daily Recognition Board. We will be continuing with our 'MyHappyMind' sessions, and we will be further exploring 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. We will also begin the next module during this half term and explore friendships, how to be a good friend, how to get along with others, active listening and handling emotions and how our friends can make us feel.	Expressive Arts & Design	We will be experimenting with different materials and creative techniques this half term. We will be collaging materials for our Resurrection Crosses, using different printing techniques to create different minibeasts and paint 'Still Life' pictures. We will also be role-playing the event of Holy Week with our Palm Sunday procession and Last Supper role-play opportunities.
Literacy	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 factual information we discover and the different parts fo the stories that we read. We will also be focussing on learning lots of new words and terms linked to our theme, focussing on life cycles, habitats and growth. We will be exploring different mark making and writing opportunities this half term linked to our theme e.g. animal facts, life cycle sequences, instructions for planting and re-counting our school trip to 'The Hive.' Nursery children will continue indiscreet phonics – Phase 1, focussing on exploring 'rhyme and rhyme alliteration.' 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.	RE	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. We will also continue to explore our Catholic Social Teaching Characters and the principles they represent: 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