

Spring 1 – ‘Our Wonderful World’

This half term the children will explore the theme *Our Wonderful World*, learning about themselves, their local area, and the wider world. They will build knowledge and skills across all areas of learning through stories, play, exploration and hands-on experiences.



Key Texts This Term

- *Lost & Found* – Oliver Jeffers
- *And Tango Makes Three* – Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell
- *The Great Race* (Chinese Zodiac story)
- *Buddies Rainforest Rescue* – Catherine Jacob
- *Journey* – Aaron Becker



Key Vocabulary

General Topic Words Maths Vocabulary Literacy & Communication

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|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| • Environment | • Subitise | • Character |
| • Habitat | • More / Less | • Setting |
| • Weather | • Mass | • Author / Illustrator |
| • Season | • Capacity | • Predict |
| • Explorer | • Balance | • Retell |
| • Travel / Journey | • Pair | • Sentence |
| • Past / Present | • Double | • Grapheme |
| • Local area | • Combine | • Tricky words |
| • Culture / Celebration | | |

Additional Experiences: Parent’s

coming into read stories at story time.
Parent’s phonics session, Walk around the local area, Maths morning, The big school’s bird watch



Ideas for Home Activities

Physical Development

- Create an obstacle course using cushions, chairs or garden equipment.
- Practise balancing on bikes or scooters.
- Encourage children to help prepare healthy snacks.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Try simple weaving using paper strips or natural materials.
- Paint pictures of different environments
- Make musical patterns using claps, taps and simple instruments.

Communication & Language

- Ask *how* and *why* questions during everyday activities.
- Retell favourite stories together using toys or puppets.
- Introduce new vocabulary during walks or play.

Literacy

- Look at a book cover and predict what might happen.
- Practise writing simple sentences about things they see on a walk.
- Play phonics games: “I spy” using Level 2/3 sounds.

Maths

- Compare containers at bath time to explore capacity.
- Count objects around the house and find 1 more/1 less.
- Make pairs of socks, shoes or toys.

Understanding the World

- Go on a local walk and talk about different types of homes.
- Watch birds in the garden and keep a simple tally.
- Explore maps or globes and talk about places family members come from.
- Cook together and talk about how ingredients change.



Key Learning Areas

Physical Development

- Learning how to stay fit and healthy through sleep, diet and exercise.
- Using a wider range of equipment with control.
- Travelling in different ways: around, under, over and through.
- Balancing on bikes.
- Strengthening core muscles for good posture.
- Developing a comfortable and effective pencil grip.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Creating storylines with peers.
- Singing simple songs and joining in with action songs.
- Exploring music and understanding a simple beat.
- Drawing and painting with increasing detail and colour mixing.
- Constructing with purpose using tools safely.
- Exploring art from around the world, including basket weaving.

Communication & Language

- Speaking in full sentences.
- Understanding and answering *how* and *why* questions.
- Retelling familiar stories using story vocabulary.
- Asking questions to deepen understanding.
- Learning new words and using them confidently.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Seeing themselves as valuable individuals.
- Expressing feelings confidently.
- Considering the feelings of others and regulating behaviour.

Literacy

- Listening to a wide range of stories and predicting from covers/blurb.
- Retelling favourite books and rhymes.
- Innovating and inventing simple stories.
- Improving pencil grip and forming recognisable letters.
- Writing simple sentences with descriptive words.
- Continuing phonics: Level 2/ 3 graphemes; reading Level 2/3 tricky words.
- Writing captions and simple non-fiction sentences.

Maths

- Consolidating numbers 0–5.
- Understanding 1 more and 1 less.
- Exploring mass, capacity and balance.
- Representing 6, 7 and 8 and understanding their composition.
- Making pairs and exploring doubles.
- Beginning to combine two groups.

Understanding the World

- Exploring the local area and comparing it to other environments.
- Learning about animals and their habitats.
- Taking part in the Big Schools’ Bird Watch.
- Exploring travel past and present.
- Looking at different homes around the world and in history.
- Celebrating Chinese New Year and learning about different cultures.
- Observing changing seasons and weather; measuring weather.
- Learning about explorers and influential figures.
- Exploring how materials change when cooking.