

Spring 2 – ‘Come Outside’

This half term we will be exploring the theme **Come Outside**, using the outdoors, seasonal change and favourite stories to inspire our learning. Children will be developing their physical skills, creativity, early writing and reading, and their understanding of the natural world.



Key Texts This Term

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* – Eric Carle
- *Oi Frog!* – Kes Gray
- *Stanley’s Stick* – John Hegley
- *Oliver’s Vegetables* – Vivian French
- Additional spring and nature-themed stories, poems and non-fiction books



Key Vocabulary

Spring, seasons, Easter, changes over time, past, present, future, environment, recycling, physical features, human features, life cycle, observe, flower, stem, roots, leaves, seeds, new life, tadpole, froglet, caterpillar, butterfly, camouflage, positional language

Additional Experiences: Spring walk, Easter Egg hunt, Tractor/Farmer visit to the school. Visit to Little Owl Farm Park. Seeds sent home for parents to plant with their children. The Great Easter Egg Race & Bonnet Parade.



Ideas for Home Activities

Physical Development

- Play simple ball games in the garden or park
- Use playdough, tweezers or threading beads to strengthen fine motor skills
- Encourage correct pencil grip during drawing and writing

Expressive Arts & Design

- Collect natural materials (sticks, leaves, stones) to make simple sculptures
- Paint or draw spring flowers together
- Explore high and low sounds using pots, pans or instruments

Communication & Language

- Encourage your child to retell a favourite story in their own words
- Pause during stories and ask, “What do you think will happen next?”
- Use words like *first/next/finally* when talking about daily routines

Literacy

- Encourage writing for real purposes: shopping lists, labels, birthday cards
- Look at the front cover and blurb of a book and predict the ending together

Maths

- Compare objects at home: “Which is longer/taller?”
- Spot numbers in the environment (doors, buses, shops)
- Make repeating patterns with toys, fruit slices or socks
- Practise quick-fire “1 more/1 less” games

Understanding the World

- Go on a spring walk and look for buds, blossom, birds and insects
- Plant seeds together and observe changes over time
- Talk about recycling and caring for the environment
- Visit a local park, church or special place and talk about why it matters



Key Learning Areas

Physical Development

- Create sequences of dance movements
- Practise moving, stopping and kicking a ball with control
- Stop a rolling ball while keeping balance
- Use cutlery, tweezers and small tools with increasing control
- Use a fine paintbrush for detailed work
- Form recognisable letters using an effective pencil grip.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Design with a purpose and explain their ideas
- Make 3D models of bugs and animals, create 3D sculptures.
- Draw flowers and plants from close observation
- Make props for role play
- Learn and sing a range of songs
- Explore movement to music, tap and create simple rhythms
- Mix colours and create different shades using white

Communication & Language

- Retell familiar stories using repeated phrases and story vocabulary
- Use connectives such as *first, then, finally, because, so*
- Plan play with others using language like *I am going to... Shall we...?*
- Offer explanations for why things happen

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Learn how to stay safe in different situations, talk about how rules help keep us safe. Understand that some behaviours are unsafe or unacceptable
- Move around the classroom and outdoor areas safely and independently

Literacy

- Read and write words using Level 2 & 3 phonics, including Tricky Words
- Begin to write simple sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops
- Write simple character descriptions
- Use writing in their play (lists, signs, labels, messages)
- Join in with repeated phrases in familiar stories

Maths

- Comparing **length** and **height**
- Ordering and sequencing **time**
- Numbers **9 and 10** (representing, subitising, 1 more/1 less)
- **Number bonds** to 10
- **Doubles, odd** and **even** numbers
- Recognising and naming **3D shapes**
- Copying and continuing **patterns**

Understanding the World

- Notice signs of **spring** and changes from winter
- Learn about **life cycles** (frogs, butterflies)
- Explore the natural world through pond dipping, planting and observing animals
- Name parts of a plant
- Understand how to care for nature and look after our environment
- Learn that everyone has the right to a home and that some families live in poverty
- Talk about special places in our community
- Identify human and physical features in the local area