

New life



As we enter Spring, learning this half term will focus on growth and new life. Children will have the opportunity to observe and explore a range of flowers and plants, thinking about how plants survive and thrive, and how we can support this. We will have a visit from the living eggs and children will experience the hatching and growth of the chicks, making observations and learning how to look after living things. We will consolidate our learning about new life and changes by looking at how we grow and change as humans and children will have opportunity to look back at how they have changed and grown over the last 5 years.

Communication and Language:

Talking focus- Describing things in detail

This half term, children will have lots of exciting experiences to talk about and with adult modelling children will be encouraged to use their talking to solve problems, verbalise and organise their thinking and explain what they can see happening and why. Adults will use questioning to develop deeper understanding, providing opportunities for children to make and test predictions. Story and non-fiction books will support children's understanding of new concepts and adults will regularly share and repeat books so that children become familiar with them. With support, children will explore and apply new vocabulary and concepts.

Personal, social and Emotional:

Relationships- Growing and caring for ourselves

Key themes: School value- Empathy

Revisit feelings and emotions, valuing the environment, healthy eating, plants, resolving issues

Celebration- Eid

Our termly value of empathy will underpin our learning this half term and children will be supported to think about the feelings of other people, and how we can nurture plants and animals. Adults will use interactions, stories and non-fiction books to encourage children to think about the perspective of others. How can we solve problems with other children? How can we put across our own views without upsetting others around us? Adults will model and encourage resilience, supporting children to set their own goals, evaluate as they go and facilitate problem solving strategies.

Physical Development:

This half term, children will continue to develop their overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility, refining a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming. Adults will support children to be confident when using and applying ball skills. Outdoor learning and gross motor challenges will support the continued development of overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility. Adults will increase the level of challenge in PE and outdoors, and children will use physical skills to overcome this. Fine motor development will continue to be a focus and adults will provide multiple opportunities to develop letter formation, becoming proficient when using one-handed tools such as pens, pencils, scissors, brushes and cutlery.



Key events and experiences

- Living Eggs visit
- Caterpillar to butterfly
- Park visits

Parental engagement

- Friday focus child meeting
- Shared reading
- Growing parent workshop

Expressive Art and Design:

Recycling Artwork, plastics, printing, construction, weaving, hot and cold colours, modelling, planning and design- evaluation and revisiting ideas

This half term, adults will continue to encourage children to deeply explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. Children will be supported to return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. Children will use and apply their increasing knowledge and understanding of tools and materials to explore their interests and enquiries and develop their thinking. They will handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control and intention

Adults will provide opportunity for children to watch and talk about dance and performance art linked to new life, growth and change and Spring. Children will explore how to express their feelings and responses.

Literacy:

Real-life and shared experiences will be used this half term to support children's independent reading and writing experiences. Children will read with adults and will be encouraged to re-read books to build their word fluency, understanding and enjoyment. Writing will be encouraged through purposeful activity and children will begin to write simple phrases and sentences, spelling words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters that can be read by others, re-reading what they have written and checking that it makes sense. Continued fine motor development and hand-writing guidance will support children to write recognisable letters-most of which are correctly formed.

Maths:

As we move into the summer term children will be given real-life situations through which to use and apply their maths learning. Adults will model and reinforce the use of subitising so that this becomes second nature for children. Through practical activities children will continue to explore and understand the composition of numbers to 10. This will be done through indoor and outdoor role-play, games, shared activities and small group experiences.

Understanding the World:

Past and Present, climate for growth, growing plants, plants we can eat, life cycles, seeds and growth, what Plants Need

This half term children will use their senses to explore a variety of familiar plants and animals, learning their names and key features. The Living eggs project, caterpillars changing to butterflies and other hands-on experiences will provide a foundation for developing understanding about what plants and animals need to grow. Adults will support children to talk about some of the things they have observed, encourage them to question why things happen and model giving explanations. Children will experience and explore the changes to the life-cycle of a plant (sunflower), frog (amphibian), butterfly (insect) and chicken (animal).

Learning and language acquisition will be supported by a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, and children will be encouraged to compare and contrast characters from stories, including important figures from the past. As part of our learning about growth and change children will explore their own lifetime having opportunity to share and sequence photographs from different parts of their lives and recognise the differences between the past and present in others' lives.

Diverse texts and adult modelling will further support children's understanding, appreciation of and respect for their own and others cultures. The celebration of Eid and the comparison of this to other religious festivals will support this. Adults will continue to model how highly we value diversity, gender and cultural differences through discussion, story-telling and role play.