



## Foundation Stage News - Summer Term 2022



We cannot believe that the children are into their third and final term in the Foundation Stage! The children have already achieved so much in their first two terms at St. Mary's and we are looking forward to witnessing them achieve even greater things in what promises to be a busy and very exciting term.

In this third and final term our theme is 'Bugs, Bees and Butterflies' and after half term our learning will be based on 'The Seaside'. We will be learning about different mini-beasts, such as caterpillars, ladybirds and beetles. Our 'Super Starter' for our topic was a visit from 'Bugfest'. This creepy crawlly handling experience has the largest collection of invertebrates for exotic encounters, from giant snails to giant foot-long millipedes! We will be using some stories to support our learning, for example 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Tall, Tall Grass' and 'The Big Book of Bugs'.

Please continue to talk to your children and encourage them to talk to you about their work in school. As you will be aware from our Zoom meeting, your child has a Learning Journey book. In these books, we record significant development steps that your child has made as well as their 'Wow' moments from home. All children will be encouraged to take ownership of their books and independently stick in photographs, drawings and writing from home.

Here is a brief overview of what the children will be doing in the seven areas of learning this term.... remember they always interlink and overlap...

### The Allotment

We will be planting sunflowers, runner beans and pumpkin seeds. This term the children will also be sowing lettuce, radishes and nasturtiums. The children will spend a lot of time outside in our garden, looking after the flowers and vegetables, watering, looking at insects, examining, using their senses - these are all lasting childhood experiences. It looks like a very busy term!!

### Communication Language and Literacy

Our daily sessions of phonics and reading will continue to be a good basis for other cross-curricular work.

The children will develop their reading and writing skills even further this term. They will both listen to and read a variety of stories in whole class, group and individual reading sessions. The children will learn that we can find information from non-fiction books about different animals and plants; they will share a variety of non-fiction texts in their whole class and group reading sessions.

Again, the children will be encouraged to write for many different purposes, which will include writing a sunflower/bean diary, facts about 'mini-beasts'. In their writing, the children will be encouraged to segment and blend sounds using their phonic knowledge, but also to remember a finger space after each word and a full stop after the last word in the sentence.

### Mathematical development

This term the children will continue to work on recognising and writing numbers to 20 and beyond. With the use of Numicon, the children will be making and recognising numbers to 100 and learning the value of each digit in a 2-digit number. They will continue to count in steps of 2 from 2 to 20 and in steps of 10 from 10 to 100.

The children will have the opportunity to sort many different small world creatures and talk about their criteria for sorting such as 'lives under the sea' and 'lives on the land' or 'has 4 legs' and 'does not have 4 legs.' The importance of pattern in mathematics cannot be overestimated; understanding numbers and number relationships is vital to the development of calculation strategies.

### Understanding of the World

We will be growing flowers and vegetables and looking at the lifecycles of butterflies and frogs. We have some moth chrysalises and are anxiously waiting for Giant Atlas Moths to emerge. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they see happening and to show care towards living things by looking after them. We are lucky to have a pond on site that we will be using. Everyone enjoys pond-dipping!

### Personal Social and Emotional Development

Through active child-initiated learning and practical tasks we will encourage the children to become independent and confident learners who are self-motivated.

### Expressive Arts and Design

In this area of learning, the children will be expressing themselves in drama and role-play through stories such as 'The Bad-tempered Ladybird' and 'Snail Trail'. Creative development is present in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. The children have access every day to activities that encourage, promote and celebrate creativity. The children have access to musical instruments, role-play areas, puppets and a creative area where they can make a variety of objects. The adult-led creative activities are connected to each weekly theme where we encourage the children to talk about what they are doing.

### Physical Development

All children will need to bring a NAMED sports kit suitable for outdoor PE this term. Your child will need a plain white T-shirt and navy shorts and plimsolls/trainers. Please ensure your child brings a PE kit at the start of the week in order to be able to change throughout the week if needed.

### Reading Books

Please find time to share a book with your child at least 3 times a week. When your child reads at home, you can record this in their Reading Diary. We will read with your child at least once a week and record this in their diary, so please ensure it is brought into school each day. We will 'check and change' books when we see that three reads have been recorded in the diary to ensure that your child is gaining fluency and confidence when reading. Demonstration is the best way to teach underlying concepts about reading and writing. Read posters, letters, and magazines. Try to take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate how and why adults read. Share writing the shopping list, thank you letters and invitations.

### Uniform - Name, Name Name.

The warm weather is upon us and jumpers are being left on the playground, please can you ensure that **ALL** your child's clothes are named. This includes PE kits, lunch boxes, jumpers and other items - especially important as we are changing for P.E. this term.

### Forest School

Our first session will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### Water Bottles

All children will need a separate water bottle that we will keep in the classroom. The children have frequent water breaks during the warmer weather!

Sun cream - As we will be outside a lot, please apply sun cream to your child in the morning. We are not allowed to apply sun cream to your child.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to come and find us.

Lee Callender and Emma Huntley-Hart

## Diary Dates

- May Bank Holiday - Monday 2nd May
- Grounds Working Party - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- Dell Quay - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May tbc
- Hurston Warren - Forest School session - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June tbc
- School photos - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June.
- EYFS/KS1 Sports afternoon. - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.
- Austria class assembly - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June.
- U.K. class assembly - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June.