



Foundation Stage News - Summer Term 2021



We cannot believe that the children are into their third and final term in Foundation Stage! The children have already achieved so much in their first two terms at St. Mary's, despite the setbacks! 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 like caterpillars, ladybirds and beetles. Our 'Super Starter' for our topic will be a visit from 'Bugfest'. This creepy crawly handling experience have 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. This term all children will be encouraged to take ownership of their books and independently stick in photographs, drawings and writing from home. We have saved some of our favourite Google classroom work which will also be included.

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 have already planted 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 weekly sessions of phonics and guided 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 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 practise counting 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 number 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 will have some caterpillars and watch them as they develop into butterflies and then release them into our wild flower garden. 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 which 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 foundation curriculum. The children have access to activities every day which 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

Physical development is not only about what we do in P.E, it is present in all areas, such as using scissors and pencils, in kicking a ball and using climbing equipment. The children will be working on building their skills using tools and P.E equipment as well as using their bodies in different ways for movement and dance. The children are always encouraged to use small and large equipment for physical development.

Reading Books

Please continue to play the suggested games with words we have sent home or make words with magnetic letters which are in the orange books. The children are making such fantastic progress, please support your child with this. If possible please try and hear your child read at least **four times a week**. Demonstration is the best way to teach underlying concepts about reading and writing. Read posters, letters, 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 21st April.

Water Bottles

All children will need a separate water bottle which 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 other questions or queries, please do not hesitate to come and find us.

Lee Callender and Emma Huntley-Hart