



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term.

As the flowers begin to bloom and the sun makes more of an appearance; we are all refreshed and ready to blossom and grow in our knowledge.

Here is a breakdown of what we will be learning this term:

### English

In English this term, the children will continue to deepen their understanding of parts of speech, punctuation, suffixes and prefixes and joining clauses using 'and' through our Power of Reading Text, 'The Lonely Beast' by Chris Judge.

We will focus on narrative and non-fiction as well as poetry. The context in which the children will engage and learn these aspects in class include; freeze frames, asking questions about illustrations and characters, writing a diary extract and a newspaper article, writing poetry exploring features such as adjectives, onomatopoeia and alliteration, writing a script, making inferences and expressing viewpoints on the story and characters, writing a character description and a persuasive letter.

**Word level:** Introduction and revision of new sounds: 'ay', 'ea', 'igh', 'y' and tricky word reading and writing (see spelling cards). Grammar: Work on past tense, doubling rule before adding 'ed', future tense and alphabetical order.

### Numeracy:

**Number & Place Value:** Recognise odd and even numbers; understand place value in 2-digit numbers by creating 2-digit numbers, placing them on a number line and solving place value additions and subtractions, locate 2-digit numbers on a 100 square and partition 2-digit numbers into 10s and 1s and count on and back in 10s from any number up to 100.

**Mental multiplication & division:** count objects in 5s and 10s and begin to say 5 lots and 10 lots; count in 2's to 20, count in 5's to 50 and 10's to 100, know double numbers to 10 and find related halves.

**Fractions, ratios & proportion:** find half, quarter and three quarters of shapes; begin to know that two halves and four quarters are a whole and that two quarters is a half.

**Mental addition and subtraction:** find addition pairs for 8, 9 and 10 and subitise to 8, 9 and 10, revise pairs to 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and derive related subtraction facts; use number facts to 10 to solve problems including word problems, add 1-digit to 2-digit numbers and add to next multiple of 10, by counting on, add 1-digit to 2-digit numbers, bridging 10 and using known facts,

subtract 1-digit from 2-digit numbers including 2-digit multiples of 10 by counting back, find 1 more and 1 less than any number to 100, add or subtract 10 from a 2-digit number.

**Problem solving, reasoning & algebra:** solve word problems involving addition and subtraction.

**Measurement:** sequence events in chronological order, relate units of time weeks, days, hours; divide the days up into parts; read and write times to the hour; begin to have a notion of how long an hour is and how long a minute is; tell the time (o'clock and half past) on analogue and digital clocks and measure using uniform units (cubes and rulers),



### Topic - "Green Fingers! Plants"

This unit introduces children to the idea of plants as living things which grow and change. Children will become aware of similarities and differences in plants, and learn how to treat plants with sensitivity. They will be conducting experiments to see what seeds need to grow, and planting their own cress seeds (fingers crossed for a good harvest!).

A brief breakdown of what we will be learning over the next few weeks:

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- About plants that grow in our local area
- About the different parts of a plant
- What plants need in order to grow
- How to care for a plant

In Geography, we'll be finding out:

- About plants that grow in other countries

In International, through discussions we'll be finding out:

- How people in different countries use plants
- If eating more plants could make a difference to the world

If anyone has any spare garden items such as plant pots, soil, seeds and bulbs we could use this term I would be most grateful, as we are transforming outside our classroom into a 'garden/planting area'.

**The home learning task** for this topic will be creating a watering device. I would like the children to use their technology skills to design and make a working watering device, researching designs then drawing and making their own device, explaining why they have chosen to include features or use certain materials. Reusing items such as wellies that your child may have grown out of or a finished household cleaning container is also a great opportunity to discuss helping

the environment. Encouraging global awareness by considering not throwing out reusable items and how some items can be used to help animals, plants and our world. Water devises are due on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.**



**RE:**

During RE this term we will be exploring the questions "Who is the Saint of Our School?" and "Why is Easter the Most Important Festival?" In the first few weeks the children will be learning about the beliefs and the way of life of Saint Mary, leading on to learning about the significance of Easter symbols such as the cross, eggs and the fish symbol. Children will also learn about the story of Easter.



**PE:**

Year 1 will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis and on a Thursday with Miss McCarthy. This half term's activity will be dance. Pupils will be exploring the topic *Green Fingers* (Plants) in their dance lessons. Activities will focus on physical exploration including games and creative movement expressing structures of plants, elements a plant needs in order to grow, lifecycles and plants for food. Through composition, performance and appreciation pupils will respond imaginatively to stimuli, exploring action (isolated and whole body), dynamics (speed and strength), space (level, size, pathway) and simple relationships (mirroring, question and answer, contact). The sessions will allow pupils to creatively and physically explore topics they are learning about in their classrooms.



**Music:** This half term we will be using the four seasons as inspiration for our musical learning to link in with their class topic of growing and green fingers. We will be developing further our understanding of pitch, encouraging the use of musical language and using movements to respond to changes in pitch. We will relate pitch movement to graphic symbols and learn how to read a graphic score to perform vocal sequences. We will contrast this with changes in dynamics through singing, playing tuned percussion instruments and playing singing and listening games.

**Art:** The topic for the second half of the term for Year One will be still life painted drawings and collage. The children will produce drawings and mixed media collages from direct observation of flowers, plants and real-life objects. We will focus on including as much detail as possible and will use light and dark tone shadows to create the effect of three-dimensions. We will look at scientific botanical drawing, Dutch flower painters, Edouard and Elizabeth Blackadder.



**PSHE:**

We will be covering a unit entitled 'Healthy Me.' Children will be developing skills and discussing ideas as to why they think their body is amazing and identifying ways to keep their body safe and healthy. Children will also be encouraged to recognise how being healthy helps them to feel happy. These concepts will be explored through Jigsaw Jack and a range of activities, storytelling and games.

**Computing:**

The children will continue with the topic "Say Cheese!" The children will continue learning to use computers and iPads to present information, enter, save, retrieve and revise information. They will be learning to work with text, tables, images and sounds.

**Home learning:**

**There will be an additional piece of home learning sent home this half term - Poetry.**

The aim of this additional home learning task is to provide further opportunities to explore another genre of text other than fiction (please see separate letter). A poem will be sent home every Thursday inside your child's reading folder for you or if possible your child to read and then discuss together.

The rest of the home learning routines remain the same as last term. **There will be no online maths activity set on the first and the last week of term.**

**Book change** will continue to take place once a week on Thursdays.

**Spelling tests:** will continue to take place every Friday morning and will be reinforced the following week through the **dictation home learning (set on Friday due in Wednesday).**

**Other information:** -There will be **no open classroom** to conclude our topic this term as we will be going to Wisely Gardens as our exit point; you will however get to see your child's topic work at learning and progress meetings on either the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Things to do to help your child:**

- Play trigraph/word detectives. Encourage them to find trigraphs within words e.g. chair
- Look for tricky words whilst reading; can they recall how to spell the tricky word once the book is closed?
- Whilst reading ask your child if they can find or tell you a verb, proper noun, common noun, adjective, pronoun, a singular word or a plural word or explain why a capital letter has or hasn't been used.
- Saying a made up word such as 'sqorb' and asking them how many different ways it could be written, reiterating that the digraph "or" can be spelt in a variety of ways.

- Question why different punctuation is used particularly apostrophes; discuss how a word can be changed by adding to the beginning or end of the word. Check whether they can recall that this is called a prefix or a suffix
- Help them practice time, days of the week; seasons and months by discussing dates or times they do particular activities.

May I take this opportunity to express gratitude for all of your continual support.

Regards, Mrs Alisha McCarthy and Miss Lynda Donlon

**Diary dates**

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	DT Day - Bread Off!
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Perform workshop - BFG
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring watch - trip to Leaders Gardens - <b>After lunch no packed lunch needed</b>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day / Year One cake sale
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Learning and progress meetings
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Water Deviser home learning task due
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Trip to Wisely Gardens - Packed lunch needed
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for the Easter Holidays - school finishes at 2.30pm