Literacy

World Book Day takes place on March 2nd this year, and as well as dressing up as our favourite characters, we will be holding a Come and Read session for our parents and carers. In class, our focus story will be *Jasper's Beanstalk*. We will learn the story by heart using story maps and actions, retell and sequence it and finally innovate on it by adding our own details. We will also be creating our own plant diary and writing a recount of our theatre trip.

Expressive Arts and Design

We have lots of gardening-related activities lined up for the next few weeks, linking in with our class story. We will be painting flowers, decorating flower plots, role-playing a garden centre and acting out our story. Later in the term we will also be designing our own Easter eggs, before going on a Bedwell Easter Egg Hunt!

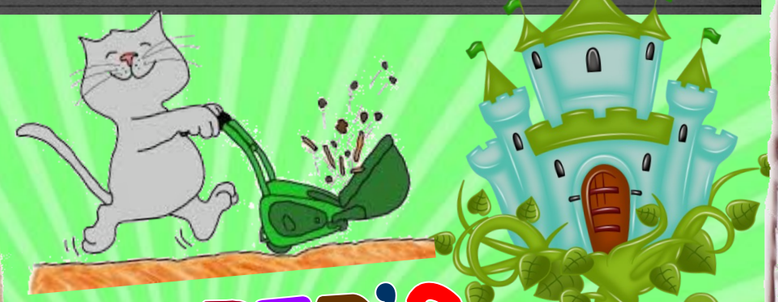
Physical Development

In our weekly PE sessions with Mr Butler, we will continue to develop our spatial awareness, finding space, moving towards and away from each other, and travelling and stopping with control. Reception will also start to get changed for PE, helping us to become more independent. We will develop our fine-motor skills by chopping and preparing fruit and vegetables to eat, while our new bikes, scooters and wheelbarrows will help us to develop our gross motor skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be talking about our emotions a lot this term, trying to expand the number of 'feeling' words that we know by using words like *bored, excited, worried* and *frustrated*. We will play magic bean circle time games which will help us to develop our turn taking and listening skills, and we will also be using persona dolls in circle time.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



JASPER'S BEANSTALK

EARLY YEARS – SPRING 2023

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, Reception will be exploring ordering, estimating and regrouping - splitting totals up into smaller parts in different ways (for instance 5 could be regrouped as 3 + 2 or 4 + 1). This will involve lots and lots of counting and the use of words like *total, group, equal, more* and *less*, as well as helping us to consolidate our number recognition. Those of us in Nursery, meanwhile, will be focussing on counting and 2d shapes. Over the next few weeks we will also be exploring different ways of measuring as we attempt to measure our beanstalks, and will also learn the days of the week and months of the year.

Communication and Language

We will be learning new language linked to plants and growing, such as *life-cycle, shoot, root, soil, planted, sprayed, watering* and *sunlight*.

We will be listening to stories linked to Easter and growing, as well as non-fiction texts liked to our topic. We will spend lots of time working with the story of *Jasper's Beanstalk* by Nick Butterworth and Mike Inkpen, thinking about the way characters behave, describing settings and making links to other stories we know. We will also continue with our daily phonics sessions, working in small groups to develop our knowledge of sounds.

Understanding the world

As the weather changes, we will continue to explore the changing seasons, looking carefully that the way that our natural environment adapts as winter turns to spring. We will become gardeners too, growing and planting potatoes, cress and beans, all of which will help us to explore the life-cycles of plants and vegetables.

On 28th March we will be visiting the theatre to watch Tales of Acorn Wood, which will encourage us to think about the lives of animals and the habitats where they live (and to try to separate out imaginary stories from real-world animals). During the term we will also be learning about the meaning of Easter and Pancake Day.

JASPER'S BEANSTALK

EARLY YEARS – SPRING 2023

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Literacy

- Constant practice of reading and phonics is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about what you've read.
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings - can they name the emotion? What does it 'feel like' inside? What has made them feel that way?
- Play turn-taking games together, and support your child in learning to wait for their turn and listen to others.

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Visit the library and see what books you can find that your child recognises already. Are there any they can retell? It's quick and easy to sign-up, and you can access a huge number of free ebooks and audiobooks. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives

Expressive Arts and Design

- Act out stories together and encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Sing and dance to favourite songs together.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you.

Physical Development

Encourage your child to get dressed on their own and brush their teeth twice a day.

Now it's getting a bit warmer and drier, take play outdoors where possible, encouraging running, jumping, balancing and spatial awareness.

Cook together, helping your child to learn how to use kitchen implements safely and developing fine-motor skills.

Mathematics

- Keep counting as much as possible - houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Ask incidental 'how many more' questions to support counting-on and regrouping. *I've got 3 plates out for tea and we need 5. How many more do we need?*
- Play board games with numbered squares together, and practice saying the names of the squares you land on together. Simple card games give lots of opportunities for practicing number names, too.

Understanding the world

- When you're out and about, look for signs of spring, and talk about how the environment changes. Keep a special eye out for new-born chicks and ducklings and talk about the way that they are similar and different to their parents.
- Talk about significant events and celebrations that you enjoy at this time of year, such as Pancake Day, Holi, Nowruz, family birthdays or Easter. We would love to share photos and stories in class!
- Grow plants or feed pets together and talk about why this is important. What would happen if we didn't do these things?