



Year R Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2, 2022

Spring 2 Overview

We are 'growing' very excited having spotted daffodils and hyacinths blossoming in our outside area. Watch this space for more growing fun!

We will be reading books about planting, growing and life cycles such as: *The Tiny Seed*, *A Gigantic Turnip*, *Titch*, *Errol's Garden*, *The Extraordinary Gardener* and the classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.



We will be planting seeds and following their progress by recording their growth using our writing skills!

We will be introducing the new and very exciting 'Message Centre' into the classroom. This is a chance for children to mark make and communicate with each other by sending special messages. These could be hidden in shoes, stuck on their backs or even buried in the sand pit for others to find!



Books

Children that are exposed to a range of book genres develop a wider vocabulary which plays a fundamental role in the reading process and is critical to reading comprehension.

In class we read stories, non-fiction and poetry. We talk about their features and encourage children to write in a range of styles too. This could include labelling a picture they have drawn, writing a simple sentence to go with it or even a story, list of ingredients or instructions on how to bake a cake.



Understanding the World

The texts for this half term provide many opportunities to become scientists! We will be using a range of scientific enquiry skills such as identifying, predicting, observing and investigating through our plants topic.

In addition, we will be re-visiting and exploring concepts such as identifying and sorting materials, experimenting with floating and sinking, and looking at patterns and change.



Reminders:

Please ensure your child's toys stay at home as we can't guarantee they won't get lost or broken.

Please remember Phonics, our first lesson of the day begins at 9.00am. Children need to be settled on the carpet by then so they don't miss out on any learning.

Godstone Farm Trip: 28th March!

Please be at school on time as we will be leaving at 9am sharp.

Returning at 4pm.

Being Imaginative

We are musicians! The children have relished the chance to learn songs and use instruments in their music lessons.

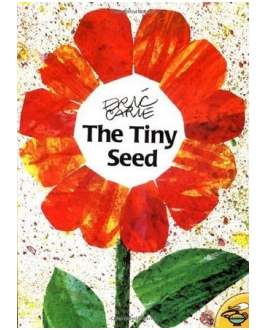
They thoroughly enjoy all opportunities to apply role-play and drama to our learning.



This Half Term's Inspiring Texts

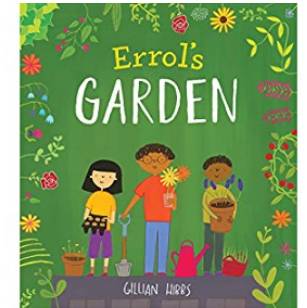
'The Tiny Seed'

We follow the journey of a handful of seeds from Autumn to Summer and the challenges they face from nature.



'Errol's garden'

The story of one boy's dream to have a garden that unites a diverse community in a positive and enriching experience for everyone.



Maths

In maths, we will continue to explore the composition of numbers within 10, finding 2 parts of a number which make a whole.

We will use practical context to sort objects according to different criteria (such as doubles): sorting and classifying are important early years skills that encourage children to identify similarities and differences.





Year R How to help at home

Developing Interests

To continue to strengthen and celebrate the home/school link, please do upload onto Tapestry any photographs of fun days out or activities your child has been involved in.

In addition, here are some ideas to support your child's learning, linked with their interests in the world around them.

- In the park or on the way to school, look at the changes all around; How are the trees changing? Can you see any flowers growing? What are the different plants and flowers called - and their parts?
- Find out what time it gets dark and discuss this from, week to week. Can you spot any changes?
- Visit the Horniman Gardens and take photos/draw pictures of what you can see and all the parts. Which plant is your favourite?
- Visit Peckham Rye, Telegraph Hill or Greenwich Park's flower beds or herb and orchard gardens.
- Visit the supermarket and try to identify as many different fruit and vegetables as possible; How do they grow?
- Eat a new exotic fruit or unusual vegetable! Describe its taste, texture and appearance.
- Explore the patterns on the skins of fruit and vegetables.
- Create an edible piece of 'artwork' using fruits and vegetables (arranging them in creative way).



To the Message Centre!

You may have heard your child talking about the Message Centre and messaging when they come home from their school or setting, and you may even have found some messages in your child's shoe by now! This is because they are exploring the joy of messaging, an approach to sprinkling extra joy over the top of their day, by showing them how reading, writing and mathematics can be hidden in and around their room and outdoors too. Children love hiding and finding - think pass the parcel, birthday presents, egg hunts and hide and seek.

There is a buzz to be had and it is this buzz that the Message Centre approach has at its heart.

You can add to the Happy Talk by hiding messages for your child to find at home within the rhythm of the day - it can be as simple as a piece of paper that is placed inside the bedtime book, placed under their breakfast bowl, popped in their shoes to find, or even in their lunchbox. As you walk in the street, play in the park, or visit the countryside why not look out for great message hiding places together - it's amazing how they will pop out to you when you begin to look!

And finally, if you have access to the internet, you may like to share five minutes' time together watching Adventure Island TV on the Greg Bottrill YouTube channel - you can discover the joy of messaging there too and it's where the magic of the Message Centre truly lives.

Daily Reading

Please continue to read daily and use the phase 3 (vowel digraphs) flashcards along side the reading books to practise word building. Remember in addition to your child's Reading Scheme book, 'daily reading' can also include reading signs on the way to/from school or on food packages. It is also great to read to children in order to develop their love of books— can they spot digraphs in the books you're reading to them?

Tricky Words

Children should have a bunch of tricky words in their phonics wallet, with their sounds. Please read these with your child. You could play 'Beat the Clock' (how words can you say in a certain time?).

We will be assessing the words your children can already read without

was	You
they	my/by
all	he/me/ she/we
are	sure/ pure