



Pear Class News

Summer 1

Firstly, a big welcome back to our final term in Reception! The children have settled very well back into school life after a busy Easter holiday. I do hope you all have had a wonderful and well deserved break. This week we have started our main topics 'Growing, New Life and Minibeasts.' The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the 'minibeast land' which we created in the classroom and have been engrossed in the outdoor learning environment, planting and gardening! In addition to this, we will be focusing on 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as a smaller topic, retelling the story and linking it to other areas of the EYFS curriculum. Just a reminder if you haven't already read our weekly class blog on the website then take a look as you'll be able to find out all about our adventures last half term. There'll be a new blog each week on our class page. Just before we ended for the Easter holiday your child was giving their own login for school360, please ensure you are logging on regularly to see what your child is doing independently at school. If you are still unsure about this please come and see me.

Read, Write, Inc

Great progress continues to be made by all of our children!

Read Write Inc will continue on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings throughout the term.

I can happily report that the children's reading and writing within RWi sessions is very pleasing and sessions have begun this week! The children are ready to begin their Set 2 sounds and these will be sent home on a Friday so that you can practise them together. Learning new sounds will expose the children to new words and allow them to use 'Fred fingers' to decode the unfamiliar words. Again, I thank you for your continuous support and encouragement, especially with practising the RWI sounds at home. Most children are now familiar with 'red words,' words that are just read and not sounded out and blended together.

Mathematics

Following last half term's target of ensuring that most children gain a solid understanding of numbers to 20, this half term we focus upon using those numbers to practise and extend our addition and subtraction skills. As part of our daily maths sessions we will be solving everyday problems that require us to add and subtract. In addition to this we will be rapidly recalling one more and one less from a given number and continuing to learn how to complete addition and subtraction sums in the form of stories! We will also be exploring data collection and using this information to record in graphs and tables. The children will also be learning how to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and learning new mathematical vocabulary based around capacity, size and weight.

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

Our mini beast topic will offer lots of scope for reading, discussing, finding out and creating. We'll enjoy using non-fiction texts and the internet to find information to answer questions and we'll enjoy using stories such as _____ as a basis for written, oral and creative work.

The World

As we didn't see many signs of Spring towards the end of last half term, fingers crossed that we start to see some this half term! This is when we can go on spring hunts and make fantastic daffodil and lamb pictures!

Alongside this we will explore other topics such as 'minibeasts, growing/planting and new life.' The children have thoroughly enjoyed making the 'wormery' this week. They are super excited to see where the worms go on a daily basis, following their tracks. These topics are all about investigation and we will be able to use simple classification to compare and identify the differences between minibeasts. We will use this information to write simple facts about them to create a class minibeasts fact file.

Within our 'growing and planting' topic we will begin to understand some common changes that occur when we plant crops and seeds and again see growth of new life—plants and insects. Linked in to this we will also be planting our own beans to link in with our focus story (Jack and the beanstalk.) The children will each have a few beans to watch grow and see whose beanstalk grows the quickest and tallest. This will be used in a shape, space and measure work as the children will have weekly opportunities to measure their own 'beanstalk!'

Creative Work

There will be opportunities for lots of painting and collaging as we keep to our focal theme during our creative work this half term. We will be drawing and painting a range of observed garden flowers and mini beasts, using warmer colours, to create spring scene pictures and use selective spring images and materials to make collages. We will use our afternoon sessions to design and make 3D mini beasts, beanstalks and sunflowers, from junk modelling. As the weather gets a little warmer and we go on many hunts looking for signs of spring, new life and minibeasts we will be doing most of our learning in the outdoor environment. I'm hoping the children will use their musical talents to create music using garden and kitchen tools.

There will always be a good range of creative materials and resources out for the children to use and explore every day, as part of our continuous provision and the children will be free to follow their own interests and ideas. In our creative area the children will be enjoying using and making their own creative responses to art work, stories and music.

The Physical Stuff

This half term we aim to look for mini beasts and signs of new life and growth, in the garden. The children will be digging, scraping up leaves and using these opportunities to help keep our outside environment tidy and ready for learning. Our inside P.E. lessons will focus upon the children moving in different ways (minibeasts, flowers growing and budding.) The children are becoming so independent when changing for P.E, which furthers their actual P.E time in the hall. Please encourage your child to be independent when changing at home, especially fastening their own coat up and putting own shoes on. As the weather gets warmer we hope to do P.E outside! I will inform you of this, nearer the time. As always, wellies will be a must as we try to get out and about on our school field to use the outdoor environment as an important space to learn and develop skills.

Home Learning

Many thanks to all for your support with home learning. Please remember to put your child's book in the correct box by Thursday morning as this saves us the time and bother of going hunting for books in book bags!

Children will continue with their home learning books. It's really lovely to see how our classroom learning can be extended at home and I urge you to try to add something into this book each week. Children who make contributions to their home learning books really enjoy sharing their work with the rest of the class and it's an excellent opportunity to progress communication skills by explaining and describing work. You don't have to do loads and I fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy. Your child will continue to bring home reading and key word books. Please just have a word if you feel that you need more reading material on a weekly basis.

We would be extremely grateful for donations of:

- *Yoghurt pots, junk modelling boxes, bottle tops, corks and anything shiny!*

With kind regards,

Beth Whitlow