

Dear Parents/carers,

We hope your child has had a good start to our second Spring term. Our next unit will cover the following:

<p>Year: Reception</p> <p>Themes: Changes</p> <p>Core Books: Jack and the Beanstalk, Elmer and the Rainbow, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Who's baby?</p>	<p>Term : Spring 2</p>
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Communication and Language

What will we be doing?

- **Listening** – maintaining attention and listening to teachers and peers each day.
- **Questioning** – asking and answering 'how' and 'why' questions.



Literacy

What will we be doing?

- **Phonic Knowledge** –Blending sounds to read and write words and simple sentences with greater independence. Reading and writing 'tricky' words.

Writing:

- **Bean Diary** – observing and recording growth of beans using correct vocabulary. E.g. seed, stem, leaves, bud, flower.
- **Information Book** – creating an information book about ourselves and our own growth.
- **Fruit Salad**– writing a set of instructions on how to make a healthy fruit salad.

Reading :

- **Core books**- enjoying an increasing range of information and story books, reading words and sentences more independently and recognising common words.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

What will we be doing?

- **Taking Turns** - Learning how to play board games such as Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and Snap.
- **Circle times** - Children can bring in special items e.g. photo, souvenir, picture, or craft work and talk about why it is special to them.

Expressive Arts and Design

What will we be doing?

- **Creating flowers, insects and butterflies** – exploring and using paints, play dough, recyclable materials, mixing colour and materials for a purpose.
- **Role Play** – playing co-operatively with others in the Garden Centre or Pet Shop.
- **Music** – making our own instruments and exploring the ways we can change sounds.

Mathematics

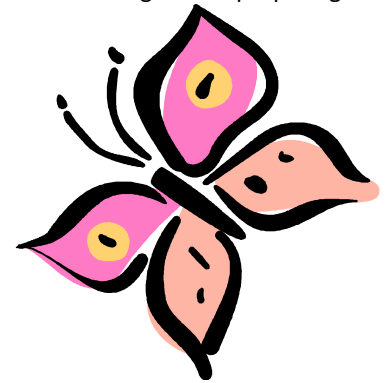
What will we be doing?

- **Problem solving** – solving problems e.g. doubling, halving, sharing.
- **Calculating** – adding and subtracting a half.
- **Counting** - recognising numbers 1-20 and beyond and learning to rapidly recall one more or one less.
- **Measuring** - Comparing length, height, width and capacity. E.g. using appropriate vocabulary to compare tallest or shortest, longest or shortest, holds most or holds least.

Physical Development

What will we be doing?

- **Moving like insects** – balancing on apparatus moving like insects. Travelling over, under and through.
- **Catching and throwing** –practicing skills with bean bags, cones, balls and hoops
- **Letter formation**- We will be continuing to practise writing letters using the correct formation.
- **Healthy eating** – comparing insects and human diets. We will discuss the need to have a balanced healthy diet.
- **Hygiene rules** – learning the importance of hand washing before preparing food.



Understanding the World

What will we be doing?

- **Camouflage** –exploring different patterns on animal and insects.
- **Materials** – exploring changes in different materials e.g. chocolate and ice.
- **Butterfly life cycle**- observing, illustrating and writing about the life cycle of a butterfly.
- **Growing bean plants**- planting and investigating what plants need to grow well.

Educational Visit

As part of our topic 'Changes' we are going to look at different environments within our local area.

We will visit Wanstead Flats where we will; make observational drawings, go on a bug hunt and talk about the similarities and differences between our school playground and the Flats. We will not be able to attend this trip without your support, so we are thanking you in advance. A letter will be sent nearer the time to ask you to accompany your child's class. Unfortunately, as we need you to look after a small group of children we require you to come without siblings.

Places to Visit: See www.activenewham.org.uk

East Ham Nature Reserve - Go Wild! Family Club- Norman Road, London E6 6HN

East Ham Nature Reserve is a great place to discover more about nature. Children of all ages and their families and carers are invited to join the free Go Wild! sessions at East Ham Nature Reserve. Have fun exploring the reserve and getting to know the wildlife that lives there. You'll be able to build dens, make crafts, and play in the beautiful surroundings. Sessions take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 12.00pm - 2.30pm. Find out more information at www.activenewham.org.uk or call the Customer Service Centre on 0300 124 0123.

Newham City Farm – Beckton

There is a lot to see at the farm. Alongside the animals there is an orchard, children's play area, a play barn and picnic benches. They sell produce too - you can often buy freshly laid eggs, honey from their bees and even manure! Newham City Farm is open all year round, every day except Mondays. It is free to visit although they do encourage a minimum donation of £1 per child and £2 per adult. The farm is open on bank holidays and runs special events throughout the year so make sure you check the active Newham events calendar.

How can you help your child?

- Login to Bug Club and support your child with their reading. Don't forget to complete the tasks to show what your child has understood from their reading. If you are having any trouble with bug club logins then please speak to your child's class teacher. We will be looking for a 'Bug Club Reader of the week.'
- Please make sure your child completes their weekly homework.
- Learning the five 'Star Reader' words each week. Make flashcards with the Reception common words written on. These words are listed on the inside of their homework book and we will also send home the five words of the week from this list. We expect children to read all these words independently by the end of this year.
- Don't forget your child's PE kit as this a compulsory school requirement. Every Tuesday. **Please write your child's name on each item of clothing including their plimsolls and P.E. bag.**

Some Useful Websites:

<http://www.readingbear.org/>

<http://www.teachingtime.co.uk/>

<http://www.primarygames.com/math/fishycount/>

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-information-understanding-phonics/>

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-independent-blending/>

Dates for your diary:

- ❖ World Book Day – **Thursday 2nd March.**
- ❖ Scholastic Book Fair – after school – **Thursday 23rd March to Wednesday 29th March.**
- ❖ Red Nose Day – **Friday 24th March.**
- ❖ Parents Evening- **Friday 24th March. 4pm – 7pm.**
- ❖ Last day of term – **Friday 31st March.**
- ❖ Easter Holidays – **Monday 3rd April to Monday 17th April.**
- ❖ First day of the Summer term – **Tuesday 18th April.**

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher about any area of your child's development and well-being.

Caroline Clifton

Assistant Head – responsible for Early Years and 0-5 year old provision.