

## This term's projects

During the Summer term, our learning will be based around the project 'Down in the Garden'! We will be spending lots of time in our Foundation Garden, planting flowers and foods to eat. The children will learn how to sow, grow, and harvest, making observations of change over time. Our learning will be inspired by the delightful story 'Errol's Garden' by Gillian Hibbs which describes the adventures of a small boy and his development of a rooftop garden in his diverse community. This will inspire us to make connections with fellow gardeners and with residents at the local care homes.

**Knowledge Organiser** You will find attached to this document what we are calling a 'Knowledge Organiser'. This captures the knowledge and vocabulary we are focusing on this half term. Please take some time to look this through so that you can help your child to remember the things they are learning in school.

### Mathematics

This term, our maths learning will involve some deep learning about number. In the Foundation Stage, children are learning to have a deep understanding of numbers to 10. This includes knowing addition and subtraction facts within 10, identifying evens and odds and recalling double facts. We will also be learning to verbally count beyond 20, recognising patterns in the counting system. During our 'Down in the Garden' project, we will be measuring plants, comparing their growth, noticing shapes in the natural world, and subitising with seeds. Subitising is when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting. This skill is useful for the 'counting on' strategy.

### Literacy

Children have now developed their phonic skills through daily teacher inputs, and we are working within Phase 3 of the program. This includes learning about digraphs and trigraphs – two or three letters that make one sound. E.g. sh as in shoe and air as in hair. Children will be learning to apply their phonic skills in reading and writing.

Soon we will be starting Phase 4 which includes reading and writing longer words by 'chunking up'.

Many of the children are becoming interested in writing. Please give them plenty of opportunities to write at home for a range of meaningful purposes. Maybe your child could write a postcard or a shopping list or a letter to a friend. When your child writes, encourage them to write the sounds that they can hear. It does not matter if it is not correct as long as they have a go.

## How you can help

### At home:

Although your child will be taught to read at school you can have a significant impact on their reading journey by continuing their practise at home. Please continue to enjoy reading books for pleasure together.

### Go to:

Education City  
>Subjects>Mathematics>  
EYFS>activities

### Visit:

Haldon Forest, Decoy Country Park or Exmouth beach – all beautiful and all free! I wonder which plants you will spot on your adventures?

### Look out for:

Bluebells! Can you spot any on your walks? Look closely at the flowers. Maybe you could draw or paint a bluebell for someone?

If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. That way, their children don't have to be slaves of praise. They will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence.

Carol Dweck