

Nursery Spring Newsletter



“Biodiversity” in Early Years

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of all species of animals, insects, plants and people found on our planet, and it includes the geographical locations in which these species are found. Biodiversity prevents any one species from throwing the balance of nature out of sync; sadly, a significant part of human behaviour over time has done this and is now putting our planet at risk. Human behaviours have influenced things like; extinction of certain species, pollution, the deforestation and the destruction of different animal and plant habitats and are only some of the different ways that humans are threatening biodiversity.

It is important that young children understand that; they can increase biodiversity and know that this is needed to sustain life on earth.

How can we help?

It is important to support children's understanding of being active participants in looking after the place they live by increasing biodiversity. Research in early development has shown that by five years old, many of the children's values will already have been formed, making the early years a really important period to teach children about biodiversity.

We can:

- Support children's understanding about the food that the children may eat. How different foods like rice and wheat are grown, inviting children to explore a range of foods, fruits, vegetables, pulses and grains, talking about where and how they are grown.
- Invite children to help create a compost heap. Instead of throwing away the fruit/vegetable's peelings from their snack/lunch times, show children how they can help re-fertilise soil. A wormery can also help young children visualise how worms can digest natural food waste and turn it into food for the garden/soil.
- Invite children to sort through recyclable materials and explore different materials like plastics, paper, natural waste. Doing this as part of everyday practice will help children understand its importance and significance to increasing biodiversity.
- Invite children to be part of the process of collecting rainwater which they can then use to water the plants in their garden.
- Teach children the importance of insects like bees to spread pollen and help plant growth. Invite children to plant flowers and plants that will encourage insects like bees to come, help pollination and further flower and plant growth.

'Biodiversity'

Competition

We are creating a Biodiversity area in our nursery garden!

The children will be learning about living things, such as bees, birds, and plants and growing food.

We would like the children to design a poster for this area.

Please come up with a colourful design that promotes "Biodiversity" and the winning posters will be displayed in the nursery garden.

Please ensure your child completes the poster by him/herselves (with a little help from an adult of course).

The competition closing date is Tuesday 3rd January 2023 the day we return to school.



Reading at Home

Please read with your child at home daily. Spend at least 5 mins reading with your child per day.

Remember to sign your child's reading record.

Top Tips

- **Snuggle up and read daily together.**
- **Have a special place to keep your books.**
- **Let your child act out the story. This may mean moving but they are still listening.**
- **Talk about the interesting world you find in the book (new vocabulary)**
- **Talk about reading left to right, trace the words with your finger.**
- **Talk about the front cover of the book. Can the child guess what the book is about? by look at the front cover**
- **Encourage activities about the books e.g. drawing a picture etc.**

What we will be learning in the Spring Term

In the spring term, we will be learning about **People Who Help Us**: Doctors and Nurses, Firefighters and Police. We will also be looking at who helps us at school too.

In spring 2 we will be learning about the **Lifecycles** of plants and insects.

We will be having a real-life experience of watching ducklings hatch and thinking about how we will look after living things. We will also be growing plants and vegetables and looking after them over time and watching how they develop.

In maths we will be: Comparing 2d and 3d shapes, make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity, discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'.

In English: We will be looking at non-fiction books and comparing them to fiction books.

We will be introducing a sound of the week, from phase 2 (visit our website to see the phase 2 sounds) learning more initial sounds and developing our pencil control to help us to form recognisable letters.