



10th January 2020

Spring Term Topic Focus

Dear Reception Parents/Carers

Our focus for learning during the term will be 'growth'. We will be looking closely at growth within the world around us and relating this to own experiences of growing up.

We will compare the growth of different living things and ask questions such as: what's similar/different about the growth of a human/plant? What's similar/different when comparing the growth of a contrasting animal species/genus? Do we grow forever? Is growth only measured in size?

We will be testing out our ideas about growth through seed planting across a range of conditions.

We will be reading a series of key texts in support of our learning, these will include: Jack and The Beanstalk, Titch and The Growing Story. The children will get to know these stories really well and their characters and themes will feed directly into the daily activity stations which support independent learning across all areas of the curriculum.

Literacy

Daily, quality reading sessions will support children's reading comprehension and their ability to think deeply about character, narrative and theme. Children will be constantly encouraged to relate the narrative events to their own experiences and to offer their own insights into the texts we read.

The children will learn to retell our key texts independently through drama and text mapping. This foundation will support their understanding of narrative structure and provide the formative language patterns of storytelling and early writing.

Daily, focused phonics teaching will continue to support the children's reading progress. Once they have mastered their set 1 speed sounds and are able to blend these sounds to form words, the children will progress onto specialised reading books, such as 'Dittys', which they will learn to read - first with guidance and then independently.

The ability to read well is one of the most important educational gifts we can give to our children. Please continue to support your children's reading, by both listening to them read and reading to them. Your continued input makes a huge difference to their learning and really supports their independence across all areas of the curriculum.

Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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Maths

The children will continue to build on their understanding of one to one correspondence and begin to recognise, understand and form numbers beyond ten. They will continue to develop their understanding of mathematical operations and concepts such as addition, subtraction and equal to. Measuring and comparing properties of length and weight will also form an integral component of maths over the course of the spring term.

Please continue to support your child's mathematical understanding by discussing the maths you encounter in the everyday. Concepts such as, 'greater' or 'less than', 'more' or 'fewer', 'the same' and 'equal to' are pivotal to formative mathematical comprehension and everyday talking points during supermarket runs, food preparation or trips to the park (for example) really help cement these concepts and allow children to 'see the maths' in their everyday lives.

Snacks

Thank you for continuing to send in healthy snacks and water throughout the week. Unless there is a medical reason, please ensure your child's drinks bottle is filled with water only. The children will be offered a piece of school fruit during first break. You may wish to send your child to school with a healthy snack for second break (fruit, vegetables, small sandwich) – if so, please ensure it is in a labelled reusable box where possible. Please refrain from sending in crisps, biscuits or sweets as part of their snack.

Coats

Please ensure your child has a coat in school every day.

Finally, thank you all for the warm and generous welcome I have received since joining Tatworth. I am really excited about the upcoming year and look forward to getting to know you all as the year progresses. I am always available before or after school for a chat, so please do not hesitate to approach with any relevant news or concerns you may have. Ideas or knowledge related to the term's learning will always be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Johnston

