

# Reception Class - CURRICULUM UPDATE

May 2025

## Forest School

The children have started making regular visits to 'Big Forest School' with Mr Batstone, Mrs White and Miss Hirst. They have particularly enjoyed travelling out of school on our minibuses, exploring the site and having a picnic snack. Back at school the children have been learning about invertebrates and making habitats for these using layers of twigs, leaves and grass. They have also been fascinated by a pair of nesting Pigeons in the nearby oak tree and are observing its progress! At both 'big' and 'little' forest school we are practising putting the forest school rule, "No pick, no lick, no pointy stick" into action.

## Growing

We have been thinking about how things grow and change over time. As part of our 100<sup>th</sup> Day celebrations we planted 100 bulbs and children in Year 6 helped us to design a flower shape using ten tyres. Sadly, only a couple of planters of daffodils were successful. More recently, Miss Harris has begun to work with us to weed our class growing bed ready to plant a variety of legumes. We have also been given some raspberry plants to grow in pots outside our classroom. Additionally, the children have each planted a sunflower seed and we are looking forward to measuring their growth and seeing who grows the tallest sunflower! The children have shown great understanding about the different parts of plants and how seeds change.

## Easter

In RE we have been discussing Christianity, and the children became very curious when learning about the Easter story from the Bible. They puzzled over the concept of resurrection as well as the power of God. We also shared several Spring themed Easter stories and shared a song about Peter Rabbit in a Music sharing assembly with children and teachers from KS1. The children did us proud when they celebrated this special time of year by making traditional Easter bonnets at home and decorating them with lots of lovely natural materials. They then paraded around school much to everyone's delight! The children also took part in a special Easter egg hunt at 'big' forest school and baked Easter chocolate nests to enjoy at a Peter Rabbit inspired tea party. A very happy time indeed.

## Writing

All of our learning helps to inspire our writing, and we are learning how to make our writing even better. As writers the children are using their *Phonics Shed* sound mats to help identify the sounds they can hear in words to help them write with confidence and independence. We are encouraging the children to write captions and short sentences to share their thinking and enhance their drawings. We have introduced lined paper and are looking for correct letter formations and 'finger spaces'. We are really proud of how hard everyone is working!

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely upcoming half term. We are looking forward to our final weeks together before the children transition up to Year 1!

## Beegu by Alexis Deacon

Back in the Spring of 2024 an extraordinary thing happened when an alien named Beegu, from the planet Pop, crash landed near our classroom! The Reception class children devoted much of their time to finding out who she was, where she had come from and taught her how to speak and write in English so they could help her return home. You may have heard that another alien recently landed in our oak tree when its parachute got caught up in the branches. The current Reception class children are now on their own journey of discovery. Watch this space!

## Blast Off!

Our current theme is set in space and we will be having lots of fun learning about space travel, in particular rockets and some of their features; the names of the planets in our Solar System and describing some of their key features; that some people believe that aliens come from other planets; what the moon is, be able to describe its features and understand that it is visible at night; that a star is visible in the night sky; and that stars have inspired many stories and pieces of artwork.

## Working beyond 10

We have been working with numbers beyond 10 and exploring ways of making different numbers. We have become more confident in ways of making 10, which has helped us to make bigger numbers, for example, to 20. The children are aware that numbers are made up of smaller numbers, exploring partitioning in different ways with a range of objects. We have used ten frames and egg boxes to explore ways of making numbers by adding groups together to make a bigger total. We have explored the 'staircase model' as a pattern that shows the next number is one more than the previous number. We have been using the language 'first then and now' to help explore ways numbers might change. The children enjoyed playing the 'bus game' where 'first' we started with 3 'then' 2 more got onto the bus 'now' we have 5. We also used the same process in reverse when exploring subtraction.

## PE Balance Bikes

The children have been enjoying working in small groups with Miss Lane to learn how to ride a balance bike. The children are gaining confidence and developing the skills required to ride a pedal bike independently. The children are learning how to ride without stabilisers, as well as improving their balance, gross motor skills and core stability. A wonderful opportunity!

## Half term challenge

Next term, our theme will be 'How on Earth?' and we will be learning about the: environment, mini beasts and the world around us. As part of our learning, we will find out about the lifecycle of the caterpillar, and we hope to order and grow our own caterpillars, in addition to our curriculum visit to the Wye Valley Butterfly Zoo on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Therefore, during Half Term we challenge you to create your own representation of the life cycle of the caterpillar. This could be drawing, making, painting, building or photographs that we can share when we return to school. We can't wait to see what you find out and to share your home learning.