



Holdbrook Primary and Nursery School

Reception Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2 - 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term our topic is about Plants. The children will be learning:

- the names of many new plants/flowers
- about the plants we can eat and plants we can't eat. e.g. we can eat strawberries and carrots but we can't eat buttercups and daisies!
- the parts of a plant
- what happens to broad beans when we water them.

We will also be planting some flowers in soil and drawing/sketching/painting different flowers



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#### **Communication and Language:**

This term there will be a focus on the children being able to maintain concentration when listening to a story connected to our topic, responding to what they hear, and extending their language so that they become more articulate in their conversation through topic work and through talking about their own experiences. Children will be encouraged to speak and to organise what they are saying so that others can follow the instructions they give.

**At home:** When you read to your child stop and ask him/her what they think might happen next, ask them to tell you which characters they like the best and why. This will help your child's understanding and will clarify the meaning of certain things. Encourage the children to tell you what they have been doing in school.

#### **Physical Development:**

Children will be asked to focus more carefully on their handwriting. There will be various activities to promote correct letter formation. The children will be using scissors in different tasks.

PE will be on a Monday and a Thursday afternoon. On Monday we will be following a programme called Jungle Journey, which helps the children to develop their fine motor and gross motor skills.

**At home:** Encourage your child to write their name as much as possible using the correct letter formation. Ask the children to sound out to you easy words eg hat, mat, cat, sat, pip, sip, tap etc.

**Please ensure PE kits are in school and ensure that the children's clothes are marked clearly with their names.**



#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

Children will be encouraged to talk about their feelings. This is done in a very sensitive way and very often in connection to things that are happening in class on a day-to-day basis. Children will be given examples of how to deal with certain situations e.g. times when they have fallen out with friends. Ultimately we want

the children to feel safe and secure.

**At home:** If your child is in any way anxious about any thing please come and talk to us.

**Literacy:**

In Literacy we will be focusing on writing. We will be encouraging children to ascribe meaning to what they write. Children will be encouraged to write sentences and make attempts at sounding words out. We will be writing our news on a Monday based on what we did at the weekend. In this way children will be writing from experiences they have had. This produces more meaningful writing. Holiday diaries will be sent home every holiday. Please return these to school when the holiday is over.



**At home:** At the weekend remind the children that they will be writing their news on Monday. Make suggestions of what they could write about so that they come to school with plenty of ideas and suggestions. They will then feel more confident when they are writing.

The children will be given every opportunity to write independently.



**Mathematics:** We will be counting and recognising numbers to 10 and 20. We will be using language such as behind, in front, beside, next to, on top of, above and underneath. This is called positional language. We will also be looking at words and concepts such as big, bigger biggest. long , longer longest.

**At home:** With different objects at home ask the children which object is big, which object is bigger and which object is the biggest etc.

**Understanding of the World:** The children will be talking about significant events in their own experiences during news time. They will be learning about the different flowers and plants that we see in this country and those that grow in warmer climates.



**At home:** Look at the flowers and plants around you. Look up the names of any flowers you see that you don't know the names of.



**Expressive arts and design:**

The children will begin to build a selection of new songs connected to the topic e.g. Here we go round the Mulberry bush, Lavender's blue dilly dilly, and many others.

**At home:** Encourage the children to sing to you the new songs that they have learnt in school.

**Reading:**

Reading books will be sent home weekly and changed on the day the group is heard read. We do reading in different forms in class e.g. phonics is done on a daily basis twice a day. A big book is read with the children and key words are highlighted.

**At home:** It would benefit your child greatly if you could please spend some time each night reading to them and talking to them about their book – any feedback can be written in your child's Reading Record. We have sent home words on a string/ key ring, these are for you to keep and to go over with the children on a daily basis if possible.

Thank you for your support and co-operation,  
Mrs Wells, Miss Thomas, Miss Evans and Mrs Watson.