



Our theme for Summer term 2 is “Are Carrots Orange?”
This week’s theme Book is: “The Tiny Seed”

Hello,

Our theme this half term is all based around food. We are starting the half term looking at how we can grow some of our food. Then over the term we will be looking more closely at fruits with “Handa’s Surprise,” vegetables with “Oliver’s Vegetables” and sharing some traditional tales such as “Jack and The Beanstalk” and “The Gingerbread Man.”

I will post some recipes that fit in with our theme; however, there is absolutely no expectation that you use them. This week I have attached, and will post on Seesaw, a carrot cake recipe. There are many other recipes available online, I have even found a vegan one that works quite well!

A couple of months ago, I planted some carrots seeds that were called “rainbow carrots.” I will post a picture of them on Seesaw and keep you updated as they grow. In the activities below I have also asked you to let me know if you are growing anything at home. Thank you, Luke, for your advice about how to look after my strawberries! In the “Understanding the World” section I have also listed some ways that you can grow your own food at home even if you don’t have a garden or any compost!

I do not expect you to complete all activities on this letter, please do as much as you can and if you want to do an activity in a different way then that is fine. However, as always, I would really like you to maintain some daily reading, writing and drawing, counting and plenty of playing and exploring!

I am really enjoying seeing what you have been up to at home through your posts on Seesaw. Many of you have told me that it is really helping to motivate your child. Seeing how well the children are reading at home last week was amazing. The look of pride on the children’s faces and hearing the supportive prompts and praise from all of you in the background made it all the more joyful to see. Thank you so much.

This week we have a guest story time reader, the lovely Mrs Cuss! She has sent me a video of her reading “Winnie and Wilber,” what a lovely treat. Her story will be on Seesaw with activities from me from Saturday morning.

Personal Social and Emotional Development/ Communication and Language

- ❖ I have read “Titch” by Pat Hutchins on Seesaw. Listen to the story and talk about what your child could do a year or even a few months ago and what they can do now. There are so many posts on Seesaw showing me how many of your children have learnt to ride a bike without stabilisers, been reading so well etc! This is a good opportunity to focus on their achievements. If you can, please also let them know that I am very proud of them!

Physical Development

- ❖ Cosmic Kids yoga suggestion for the week is “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” <https://safeYouTube.net/w/yhfG> I am quite enjoying these videos, the actions are easily manageable and it’s 15 minutes when I can concentrate on joining in and not think about anything else!
- ❖ This week I would like you to spend some time practising some ball skills. You could play catch or practise some football skills such as dribbling or shooting.

Literacy

Each weekday, please spend a few minutes recapping all of the sounds introduced so far; this is really important, don’t just focus on the newer sounds. Also go through some of the words, which ones you do will depend on where your child is in their learning.

I have loved seeing how well the children are using their phonics in their writing. This will be our focus for the next few weeks.

I have written quite a few captions in activity 1 as I have noticed that some of you want to write one or two per day. You don’t have to do this, but they are here if you want them. Please note that when writing captions you should read them (they don’t copy them) but they can have a sound mat in front of them. If they are struggling, and you think that they know the right sound, try giving them the choice of two sounds, i.e. if they can’t think of how to spell the word “farm,” ask them what the first sound is (f) then say “do you think it is an “ar” or an “ee” sound next? Then repeat the word emphasising the “ar” sound.

1. Recap the sounds ai, ee, igh, er, oo, or, sh, ch th and ng. Spread a selection of the digraphs, (and the one trigraph) around the room, call one and ask your child to run and find it. Then call out a word that contains one of the digraphs, can they spot it? Ask your child to write one or two of the following captions: "a shed for a king," "high on a hill," "seeds in a shop," "fish and chips for lunch," "paint a red snail," "this is a good car," "the farm is high on a hill," "look at the river."
2. This week our story is "The Tiny Seed." Watch the story on Seesaw. Draw a picture of a house with a flower next to it that is even taller than the house, just like in our story. Ask them to put as much detail into their picture as they can such as a number on the door, curtains in the windows etc.
3. Ask your child to draw a picture representing each of the seasons, they could then label the seasons or even write a short sentence about each one. Talk about what happens in each season, Autumn: leaves falling, Spring: plants start to grow and we get baby animals, Summer: it is warmer and fruit and vegetables start to grow and Winter: colder weather, snow, animals hibernating.
4. Play I spy, you can start with the standard "something beginning with" game. Then make it a little trickier and say something with the ai, ee, igh, er, or or sound in it. When I play this game, I often have a tray/ selection of resources that I will be using to make the game more manageable. I also accept the phonetic spelling of words so when I say, "I spy with my little eye something with the ai sound in it," I would accept the child saying "plate."
5. This week I would like to find out more about your child's favourite soft toy. I would like them to draw me a picture of it, write its name and, if they would like to, tell me why it is so special.

Mathematics

This week we are, again, going to look at addition and subtraction. You will notice that the activities are all practical and involve lots of talking. The Early Learning goal says of addition and subtraction. "using objects and quantities, they add and subtract 2 single digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer."

- 1) Addition game. You will need a washing line, ailer or a piece of string tied between two chairs and 6 socks, 4 of one colour and 2 of another (or could be 4 patterned and 2 plain, whatever you have.) Can you peg the blue socks on to the washing line? Now, can you peg the red socks next to them? Can you count how many blue socks there are? Can you count how many red socks there are? Can you find the total number of socks by counting them all? To get your child really thinking and talking about number say: "I think there are eight socks altogether, am I right? Why not? Can you explain how you found the total number of socks? What would happen if I added another red sock to the washing line?"
- 2) Addition number line game. With a partner, draw a large 0 – 10 number line on the ground in chalk. If you don't have chalk, then you can use your number cards. Stand on 0. Ask your partner to say a number between 1 and 10. Jump forward that number.
- 3) Subtraction number line game. With a partner, draw a large 0 – 10 number line on the ground in chalk. Stand on number 10. Ask your partner to say a number between 1 and 10. Count back that number by jumping along the number line.
- 4) Subtraction game. A game for two people, you will need to build a tower of 10 or 20 bricks each and then either use the dice from your maths bag or number cards (up to 9) and take turns either rolling the dice or turning over the cards and removing that number of bricks from your pile. The winner is the first person to dismantle their tower. You can make it extra tricky and have to roll exactly the right number to finish dismantling your tower.
- 5) Addition and subtraction game. You may not have a hoop or 10 beanbags at home, but you could use rolled up pairs of socks, small soft toys etc and for the hoop you could use a skipping rope, train tracks etc. Stand 1 or 2 meters away and throw all of your objects in the hoop. Then talk about what addition and subtraction number sentences that you can make.



Expressive Arts and Design

- ❖ What do you think our rainbow carrots will look like? Draw or paint me a picture of what you think our carrots will look like.
- ❖ This week I would like to set you a couple of construction challenges.
 - 1) Build a tower as tall as you can using something unusual! I have built a tower of shoes! The only rule is that it must stay upright without you holding on to it. If possible, I would love to see a picture of you standing next to your tower.
 - 2) I know that you are all brilliant model makers, please can you build me a model of whatever you like using your favourite construction toy. You could even make me a junk model if you like.

Understanding the World

- ❖ There is much that you can grow at home without needing to buy seeds. Why not have a go at growing one or more of the following:
- ❖ Celery: one of the easiest plants to re-grow from scraps. You simply cut off the bottom of the celery and place it in a shallow container with a little warm water in the bottom. The bowl should be kept in a sunny and relatively warm place. After a week or so, leaves will begin to grow, and you can wait and harvest these as required, or replant the celery in your garden and allow it to grow into another full-sized plant.
- ❖ Lettuce: You can also re-grow head-forming lettuces and other leafy crops simply by retaining the rooting section, placing it in water, and waiting for a second flush of leaves to grow.
- ❖ Carrots, Turnips, Radishes, Parsnips, Beets and Other Root Crops: Retaining the tops from carrots, turnips, and other root crops will allow you to regrow them. Place the tops in a container of water and new, green tops should begin to grow in a matter of days. You can simply harvest and use these greens as they grow, or you can allow the roots to continue growing until the plants are ready to be transplanted back into the ground.
- ❖ Potatoes: Any chunky sections of potato peel or pieces of potato that include an 'eye' on them (those small indentations from which the shoots grow) can be replanted to grow new potato plants. Simply take your potato scraps, leave them to dry out slightly overnight and plant them in the soil with the eyes facing up in exactly the same way that you would plant seed potatoes.

There are many more vegetables that you can grow from "scraps," if you are interested either message me or look online.

Reminder of logins etc.

Phonics- Monster phonics has teaching support and activities available for parents.

<https://bit.ly/3cxQ7Dv> Username: login Password: homelearning

Phonics Play has lots of fun games.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm> username: march20 password: home

If you haven't done so already, then please email me to request your child's login for Numbots then click on the link - <https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login/56391>

Oxford Owls, a great resource for online reading books.

Most useful of all please email me if you are not already on Seesaw.

Finally

When school closed for most pupils on 20th March, I remember saying to colleagues that we have two weeks before Easter then two weeks of the Easter break then I think we will be back. I also thought that we would be able to return as we were before. So much has changed since then, nobody could have imagined how the situation would have developed. So, I just wanted to thank you all so much for supporting your children with home learning. You are all being so creative, caring and I have really appreciated you all keeping in touch with me.

As always please contact me if there is anything else you need support with at home.

Miss Jackson