

Growing and Changing

This half term we will be looking at the topic 'Growing and Changing'. We will be focusing on the stories 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk'. We will explore how flowers and plants and observe change over time. We will take part in lots of fun activities including: planting seeds and local walks to explore nature. Your support at home is always greatly appreciated and we will be sending activity ideas home for you to try.

What do we want children to **know** by the end of this block and what do we want children to **know how to do** by the end of this block?

Physical Development

Squeeze, thump and flatten dough.
 Use small figures and vehicles with control.
 Fill and empty containers with water and sand.
 Increasingly attempt more risky play.
 Attempt to kick a large ball.
 Move and transport large objects, such as tyres and barrels.
 Explore the outdoor area.
 Move on ride on toys by pushing feet.

Communication and Language

Join in by repeating words and phrases as an adult narrates play.
 Seek an adult to share a story.
 Say the last word in lines of a simple rhyme.
 Locate features in book illustrations.
 Develop book preferences.
 Name resources and build two and three word level phrases about them,

PSED

Greet adults on arrival.
 Separate confidently from carer.
 Anticipate routines using verbal and visual cues.
 Show awareness of others during parallel play.
 Help an adult with a task.
 Use simple eating and drinking equipment.
 Request snack preferences.
 Engage in a wider range of play activities.
 Participate in simple domestic role play.

Which **words and phrases** do we want children to recall by the end of this block?

Physical:

- Dig
- Scoop
- Throw
- Catch
- Jump
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- Start
- Stop

Communication and Language:

- Big
- Small
- Grow
- Change
- Yes
- No
- Finished

PSED:

- Help
- Hungry
- Full
- More
- Flowers
- Seeds

Which **visits, visitors and special experiences** will we organise to secure children's knowledge?

- We will be planting flowers in the planters in our brand new outdoor area. We will select which seeds we want and work together to plant them. We will watch them grow over the rest of the year.
- We will establish links with a local garden centre
- We will be spending time in our sensory garden, using our senses to explore nature.
- Sunflower seeds will be sent home for children to plant and observe grow.

How can we involve our **families** in learning?

- We will send home sunflower seeds for you to plant together. We would love regular updates to see how the seeds are growing.
- We will regularly upload to Tapestry so you can see what we have been doing in school.
- You could explore your garden or local park together. What signs of spring can you see?
- We will send home weekly home learning suggestions that you can do together at home.

Which **key books** will help children secure and think more deeply about the knowledge in this block?

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
- Jasper's Beanstalk – Nick Butterworth
- What can you see in spring? Sian Smith
- A seed is sleepy - Dine Aston and Sylvia Yong

How will we **enhance our continuous provision** to extend learning through independent enquiry?

- A range of different sized gardening tools for the children to explore and learn how to use.
- Natural materials to explore and use.
- Weaving and wrapping with sticks and leaves
- Printing in nature
- Time lapse of plants growing
- Role play animal hospitals
- Insect hotel
- Binoculars and magnifying glasses to explore nature more closely

