

Autumn

All About Me

The children will start their year in Reception with a topic all about themselves. They will start by thinking about who they are, what they look like, as well as their own likes and dislikes. The children will learn about each other, exploring similarities and differences and talking about their families, homes and communities. Sharing family photos is a great way to learn more about each other. They will draw self-portraits, particularly focusing on holding their pencil correctly and practise writing their name. They will be encouraged to talk about people of particular importance to them and their experiences. We will support the children in developing relationships with their peers, initiating play and demonstrating friendly behaviour. The children will be introduced to the 'Oxford Reading Tree' family and will begin to enjoy stories about Chip, Biff and Kipper and their family.

People Who Help Us

Children find out about lots of different people that can help them. They start by thinking about members of their family and what families do to help each other. Then they will think about different adults in school: lunchtime supervisors, premises manager, cook, teacher, etc. The children will learn about jobs people do that help others. We will share stories like 'When I grow up' and explore children's interests in different occupations. They will have visits from a firefighter, dentist and doctor and ask them lots of questions about their jobs. The children will be encouraged to be independent learners. They will role play being a nurse, vet and police officer, and do lots of maths and writing activities whilst they play.

Animals

The children will explore a range of different animals, including farm animals, jungle animals as well as arctic animals. They will learn about their characteristics and their habitats. They will sort and categorise animals and discuss their similarities and differences. They will discover stories such as 'The Mixed-up Chameleon' and 'Monkey Puzzle' and discuss animals and their young. They will use a range of materials and mixed media to create different animals. The children will develop their understanding of rhyme and alliteration through texts like 'Rumble in the Jungle'. They will have opportunities for be imaginative in the jungle role play and be encouraged to share and take turns in the small world and other fun animal themed activities.

Celebrations/Christmas

During this topic, children will learn about a variety of celebrations including, but not limited to, birthdays, weddings and Christmas. They will be encouraged to feel confident in sharing their own experiences of celebrations and describe a special time or event with family or friends. We will read the Nativity story from the Bible and learn about the day Jesus was born. The children will retell the story by learning a repertoire of different songs and dances and perform them in our very own Reception Nativity. The children will work hard to develop their formation of clearly identifiable letters in order to write invitations to their performance.

Spring

Space

The children will have fun learning about the world in which we live. They will explore planet earth, as well as discovering the other planets in our solar system. The children will discuss, comment and question what we know about space and the natural world. They will be encouraged to introduce storylines into their play and embrace their imagination inspired by the story 'Whatever next'. We will have fun creating different aliens from different planets and enjoy reading the Julia Donaldson story 'The Smeds and the Smoos'. The children will be asked to create their own planets, thinking about what it is like to live there by drawing on what they know. They will be encouraged to segment (sound out) and blend (push the sounds together) words in order to read and write three letter words. They will solve alien maths problems such as finding the total of two groups by counting all of them.

Dinosaurs

The Dinosaur topic sparks the children's imagination and creativity. The children will share the story 'T-Rex on Tour' where a Tyrannosaurus travels around the world writing letters to his friend Max. Rex will become the children's friend too and pay the children a visit at school! He will leave clues to spark the children's thoughts and ideas and write them letters which they will reply to. The children will use their phonic knowledge to write letters to Rex in order to discover more about dinosaurs. They will find out about a range of different dinosaurs, learning more by reading non-fiction texts. The children will learn about the characteristics of different dinosaurs and how that benefits them for their particular diet. They will use this knowledge to investigate the 'dinosaur eggs' and 'dinosaur poo' that they will find in school in order to identify what type of dinosaurs have paid them a visit. The children will become archaeologists and analyse fossils and bones in the sand and sensory play. They will use a variety of construction and materials to create different dinosaurs.

Growing/Food

During our 'growth' topic, the children will explore the components required to grow a plant. They will learn about where food comes from as well as naming and categorising different foods. Introduced with a classic text, 'The Enormous Turnip', the children develop their understanding of growth and changes over time. They will chop, cook and taste a variety of vegetables comparing them and discussing their likes and dislikes. We will discuss the importance of a balanced diet and exercise to ensure good health. The children will read the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. They will plant their own beanstalks and observe how they grow and change. They will be encouraged to retell the story in a giant castle role play. This topic is great for developing understanding of measure. We will explore size, length, height and weight. The children will then have fun reading the action packed story 'Supertato' where they will plan and construct ways in which they can help to capture the evil pea! They will engage in a supermarket role play where they will have opportunities to use language related to money.

Summer

Traditional Tales

This topic focuses on the creativity of stories. The children will explore traditional tales such as, 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. They will be encouraged to act out and retell the stories in a variety of role plays. They will continue to use their imagination and creativity to think of their own 'Helicopter stories'. The children will become authors and write their own version of the traditional stories by altering key characters or key events. They will be encouraged to spell words correctly using their phonics skills and their knowledge of 'red words'. In maths, they will solve addition and subtraction word problems and begin to explore halving, doubling and sharing. They will engage in a mystical castle role play where they can use what they know to express themselves effectively. Play will still be an important part of the children's learning as they build on the skills they have developed during their time in Reception.

Mini-Beasts

The mini-beast topic will continue to develop the children's explorative and inquisitive nature. They will be encouraged to investigate a range of different mini-beasts, both outdoors and inside the classroom. The children will enjoy the fictional story of 'Superworm'. They will observe the wonders of worms and how they move underground in a Wormery. Whilst enjoying the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' the children will have the responsibility of caring for their own little caterpillars. They will witness the magical changes during metamorphosis; as they watch tiny caterpillars grow bigger and bigger, build a chrysalis and finally transform into beautiful butterflies. They will explore characteristics, habitats and life cycles of a variety of mini-beasts building on prior knowledge and developing their ability to gather information. They will be encouraged to talk about their findings, using past, present and future forms accurately. Writing simple sentences, the children will continue to develop their story writing skills and be reminded to use finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. They will be encouraged to reflect, review and adapt their work where necessary, thinking critically about how they could improve their creations.