

Catkins – Our Summer Term Learning - 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share with you our plans for the upcoming summer term. This term promises to be filled with fun, learning, and exploration as we support the development of your child's skills across a range of engaging activities and topics! We hope to take advantage of some beautiful summer weather to take the children rock pooling at the beach during the second half-term, bringing our learning to life! Mrs Lawton and Mrs Billing

This term, we will explore the themes of:

Lifecycles: Understanding the lifecycle of plants, butterflies, frogs, and other creatures.

Habitats: Learning about different environments, such as woodlands, ponds, gardens, and the seaside!

Growing and Change: Hands-on gardening activities, observing how seeds grow into plants, and discussing how animals, including Humans, change as they grow.

Exploring the Natural World: Encouraging curiosity through nature walks, bug hunts, rock pool investigations, and close observation of wildlife.



Stories, poems and songs we will be enjoying:

The Teeny-Weeny Tadpole by Sheridan Cain

The Enormous Turnip – Traditional Tale

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Super worm by Julia Donaldson

Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae

Rhyme time rhymes: Mary, Mary quite contrary; Ring-a-ring-a- roses; 1, 2,3,4,5, Once I caught a fish alive; A sailor went to sea.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The children will be guided through play and activities that foster:

Playing and Exploring: Active engagement in learning through hands on experiences with nature in our outdoor learning environments.



Active Learning: Building perseverance, concentration, and motivation through engagement with exciting, stimulating and challenging activities, indoors and outdoors



Creating and Thinking Critically: Encouraging problem-solving, questioning, and making connections—for example, identifying why certain plants grow better in specific conditions.



Prime and specific areas of learning – these are the seven areas of learning within the Early Years Framework. We will be...

Prime Areas:

Communication and Language:

- Discussing lifecycles, habitats and changes they observe, enriching vocabulary.
- Developing attention and listening skills to support engagement in stories, songs and rhymes with interest, curiosity and enjoyment

Personal, Social, and Emotional Development:

- Working collaboratively – through continuous provision or activities such as gardening, building a bug hotel for example
- Begin to identify own, and others' feelings to show we care.
- Begin to learn how to cooperate, and share, with others.

Physical Development:



- Fine motor skills – developed through a range of activities such as planting seeds and drawing detailed observations.
- Mark-making, holding a pencil carefully and effectively to promote legible mark-making; using scissors to cut a variety of materials
- Gross motor skills developed by providing ample opportunities for whole-body movements like running, jumping, climbing, throwing and balancing in natural and sometimes uneven environments.

Specific Areas:

Literacy:

- Enjoying core poems and stories related to our topics
- Spotting patterns in rhyming texts and enjoy joining in with stories and rhymes.



Mathematics:

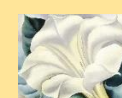
- Using number, shapes, patterns, and measurements – inside and out - using a range of activities in our natural environment.
- Beginning to understand space and distance between objects; weighing natural objects with large and small balance scales to begin to understand heavier/lighter and mass.

Understanding the World:

- Developing our knowledge of lifecycles, seasons, and habitats.
- Experiencing and observing; seasonal changes; growth and lifecycles.

Expressive Arts and Design:

Using a range of media to create art inspired by nature. (Being inspired by artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Andy Goldsworthy)



Forest School Fridays!

Every Friday, we will be having, 'Forest School Friday'! We may get muddy so please can the children wear old clothes! Through this, we will be supporting the development of gross and fine motor skills; self-esteem and confidence; understanding of the world and bush craft skills through a range of carefully selected Forest School activities.



We are looking forward to a great summer term ahead!

As the weather warms up, please can your child bring a hat and sun-cream. Please don't hesitate to chat if you have any questions or wish to get involved in our activities!

Warm regards - Mrs Lawton and the Catkins team.

