



Let it Grow!

Year 1 Summer A 2021



Welcome to the summer term! The sun is shining and already the children have enjoyed making the most of learning outside this week. We hope it continues! This half term our topic is 'Let it Grow!' we are going to be learning about plants and where our food comes from.

English: This half term we will be thinking about how to sequence sentences to make a longer piece of writing – retelling stories or recounting experiences. We have started this by thinking about the story of Oliver's Vegetables. Later in the half term we will be learning about Beatrix Potter and writing our own stories about Peter Rabbit and friends.

Alongside our English lessons we are working hard in phonics to learn all the digraphs we need to know by the end of Year 1 (available [here](#) if you would like a copy to practice at home). We are also learning to read and spell the Year 1 tricky words (click [here](#) for a copy). The children are participating in guided reading sessions each week, giving them opportunity to read aloud and discuss what they have read, which is important to develop their comprehension skills.

Vocabulary: Through our topic the children will be learning some new words: deciduous, evergreen, germinate, branch, trunk, stem, botany, dazzle, conservation and diet. Talking about these words at home will help your child consolidate their new learning.

Maths: There are some key skills that have been identified by the Department for Education that children need to secure in order to be ready to start the Year 2 curriculum which are the main focus for our learning this term. These are:

- **Counting forwards and backwards within 100, starting from any number.**
The key skills that children find tricky are changing the 10s number (e.g. 39... knowing that 40 is the next number); starting from any number – not just 1 and counting backwards. You can help your child with this by counting daily – perhaps on your walk to school.
- **Placing numbers on a numberline to 20 where only 0 and 20 are marked and comparing numbers to 20 using the symbols < (less than) > (greater than) and =**
It is really important that children learn to mark the half way points on the number line (10 / 5 / 15) and they can then use 'more' 'less' 'before' or 'after' to explain why they have positioned the number – e.g. I know that 9 is one less than 10 so it must be close to 10.
- **Fluently add and subtract numbers to 10**
The children need to know facts such as $4 + 4$, $3 + 7$ or $6 - 2$ without needing to use their fingers. They will then be able to apply these facts to larger numbers – e.g. $6 - 2 = 4$ so $16 - 2 = 14$.
- **Count in 2s, 5s and 10s**
The children need to be able to count forwards and backwards and start from different multiples – not just 0. This is another counting practice you can do daily to support your child's learning. They do not need to learn their times tables – it is important children understand the idea of and are confident with skip counting first.
- **Recognise odd and even numbers to at least 10**
We encourage the children to think about the numicon shapes to identify if the number shares equally into twos or has a 'bit sticking up'

- **Recognise 2D and 3D shapes**

The children should be able to recognise circles, triangles, oblongs and squares and cones, cylinders, cubes, cuboids and spheres.

- **Make 2D or 3D shapes from smaller shapes to match an example**

Playing with a tangram or building using blocks to match a picture are good games that will help children with this task.

Once children have secured a particular skill, we will broaden and deepen their understanding by presenting tasks in different ways and solving problems. There will be a focus on working systematically. For example, finding all the different ways and being able to explain how they know that have found all the solutions.

Science: The children will be learning to identify plants they see around our school grounds, and identifying the features that are common to all. We will name some common plants and learn about evergreen and deciduous trees. The children will work scientifically by observing closely, describing and grouping, and drawing diagrams.

History: We will be finding out about two famous naturalists: Beatrix Potter and David Attenborough. The children will learn about why they are famous and compare their lives.

Music: We will be using the theme of dragons to explore how changes in tempo (speed) and dynamics (loud – forte and soft – piano) can change the mood of music. The children will be composing their own music to represent the different ways a dragon moves and creating a graphic score to represent their ideas.

Computing: The children will be using the Scratch Junior app to learn to control the screen-based sprite. This will build on the work converted last half term using BeeBots. Scratch Junior can be downloaded free to any tablet or used on a PC for your child to continue exploring at home – the link is [here](#).

Design Technology: We will be learning about where our food comes from, linking with our science topic of plants and finding out all about vegetables. The children will also be designing and making vegetable fajitas. To help with the cost of this, we would welcome donations of £1.

Home Learning Challenge: Look in your garden or when you are out and about – learn to identify 4 or 5 different plants. You could look for roses, tulips, primroses, pansies... There is a [website here](#) to help you identify trees in blossom. Or there are various apps you could download to help with identifying flowers and trees. [Click here](#) for some suggestions. Once you have spotted the different flowers, can you make a poster to share with us at school to help your friends learn about the plants you have found too? Don't forget you can email it to us (year1@purbrook-inf.hants.sch.uk).