

JOHN PAUL CLASS  
Summer 1 Curriculum Letter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break!

During the first half of this summer term, we will be learning about the following topic: 'How does your garden grow?' We will be planning fun and engaging activities linked to this topic and more. Read on to find out about the exciting learning opportunities we have ahead...

## RE

Our next RE units are as follows:

- Good News – we will learn that everyone has good news to share and that Pentecost is the celebration of the Good News of Jesus.
- Friends – we will continue to make new friends in class and across the school, and learn how to be good friends to each other as well as learning that Jesus had good friends also.



## English

We will continue to concentrate on 2-3 different sounds a week, increasingly looking at digraphs and trigraphs (2 or 3 letters that make one sound e.g. 'ow' as in 'cow' or 'ure' in 'sure'.) Thank you for your continued support in providing objects for our 'Sounds of the Week' table - the children find using this learning resource very enjoyable!

Your child has been working hard to apply their phonic knowledge in reading by blending sounds to read real and pseudo (made up) words. They have applied their phonic knowledge when writing too, by segmenting sounds to write words in sentences. We have been encouraging the children to say words aloud so they can listen for the sounds in the words they are writing, and to use their knowledge of key words and class dictionaries also.



Your child will continue to practise their handwriting skills to ensure that their letters are correctly formed and orientated. Our aim is that writing letters becomes natural and fluent for all children this summer term so they can begin to concentrate on other aspects when writing, e.g. including adjectives.

During this half term, we will be exploring a range of stories linked to our topic, e.g. 'Mad About Minibeasts!' by Giles Andreae, 'The Crunching Munching Caterpillar' by Sheridan Cain and many more! We will engage with the stories through role-play and drama activities to encourage creative thoughts which will lead to some creative writing. We will also continue to enjoy poems and non-fiction texts too!



The children will continue to bring home two reading books each week. As you already know, the second reading book is given to your child from our class book corner. This book is for you to read with your child and is additional provision to the reading activities we do in class. Please continue to ensure your child brings their reading folder to school each day.

Your child will soon have received all 100 Reception keywords. They are expected to recognise and read all 100 words by the end of July 2018. Please continue to practise reading the keyword flashcards your child has been given – without regular review, your child is likely to forget these words! Thank you for your continued support with this as your input is making a significant difference with your child's reading and writing.

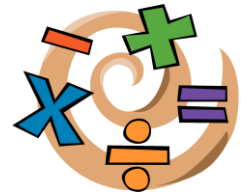
Your child will continue to receive a story sack on a rota basis. These are given out on Wednesdays and should be returned the following Tuesday. When your child receives a story sack, please spend time enjoying the contents with him/her and remember to return the sack on the following Tuesday with all the pieces.



## Mathematics

In maths we will continue to focus on counting on and back in steps of ones, twos, fives and tens from different starting points. The children love our counting activities and rhymes – so please practise these with your child when you are out and about travelling to places. We will consolidate the addition and subtraction strategies we have learnt (please refer to the maths calculation booklet you were given in the autumn term). We will apply our addition and subtraction strategies to different, practical problem solving activities and number stories. We will also introduce the concepts of sharing and repeated addition as an introduction to division and multiplication.

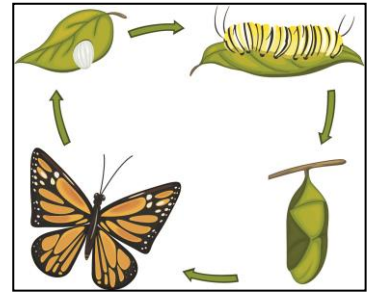
Your child will also be developing an understanding of concepts such as doubling, halving, symmetry and different measures e.g. ordering two or three items by length or height.



## Understanding of the World

Our topic this half term is 'How does your garden grow?' The children will look at a selection of different flower parts and learn their names. We will also learn about 'Minibeasts' and their characteristics. The children will go on a minibeast hunt and use magnifying glasses to help identify minibeasts in our maze! The children will also have the opportunity to observe live caterpillars and watch them change into beautiful butterflies!

In computing your child will use Bee-Bots (programmable floor robots) learning how to operate the Bee-Bot and set a sequence of instructions for it to perform a specific outcome, e.g. travel a path to the treasure. They will also create their own simple PowerPoint presentations based on their favourite minibeast. Your child will also engage with some simple programming software!



## Expressive Arts & Design

To support our learning in 'Understanding the World', your child will be learning about the famous artist 'Vincent Van Gogh', his life and some of his most famous creations, particularly 'Sunflowers'. They will continue to develop their brush strokes and techniques by painting their own 'Sunflowers' picture to display in our 'Art Gallery'.

Your child will also design their own minibeasts! We will recycle donated 'junk' modelling to create our minibeasts and make choices about suitable materials for these. Once completed, your child will evaluate their work and discuss any changes they would like to make; the things they found difficult and what they enjoyed the most about making their minibeast.

We will continue to enjoy our weekly music lesson with Mr Dixon, our specialist music teacher, on Wednesdays; singing songs and exploring musical instruments.

## Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will be focusing on:

- Easter Egg Hunt- Celebrating that Jesus is risen
- Sportsmanship - Having a good sporting attitude for our upcoming sports day
- St George's Day (Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April)- Learning about the Patron Saint of England
- Road Safety- Recognising how to behave in a safe manner whilst crossing roads
- Respect- minibeasts and their habitats
- Emotional situations- Such as phobias and fears
- Environment- Looking at how we can care for our environment



## PE

In Outdoor PE, we will be developing our athletic skills focusing on activities such running, skipping and hurdling in preparation for our sports day on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Gates open at 1.30pm, for a 2.00pm start. More information will follow.



In dance, we will be performing our own 'minibeast' movement phrases to create a simple dance sequence related to the themes of 'travelling' and 'turning'.

### Reminders

Please continue to read with your child every evening, discussing what has been read to ensure full understanding of the text. Twenty minutes is a recommended duration.

As in the previous term, Indoor PE will take place on Tuesdays and Outdoor PE on Thursdays. Your child's PE kit can be left in school for the duration of the week (**please ensure that their PE kit and the rest of their uniform is clearly marked with their name**).

The full PE kit consists of a school tracksuit, black shorts, a t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers (preferably without laces) all kept together in a PE bag. All items of clothing are available from the school office. We can still expect cold weather throughout the summer months so please continue to provide your child with a tracksuit for Outdoor PE.

Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £1.50. Please remind your child to bring his/her water bottle each day to build a routine and to allow your child to regularly hydrate his/her brain ready for learning.

Homework will continue to be given on a Friday and collected the following Monday. Please ensure your child completes their homework to the best of their ability.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, either at the end of the day or by appointment through the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Allen

John Paul Class Teacher

