



Reception Pentecost 1 Newsletter

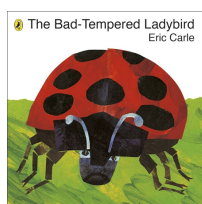
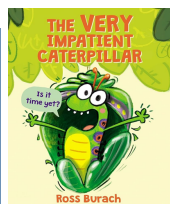
Welcome to our Pentecost term in Reception. This half term we will be considering the question "I wonder what we can find in the garden".

English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

Narrative and oral retelling. The children will be able to show an understanding of what has been read by using their own words to retell a story.

We are going to wonder about what is in our garden. Firstly, we will look at the honeybee, the special hives they make and try some of their delicious honey. Then we will then look at caterpillars and their life cycle as they metamorphize into butterflies. Finally, we will look at some of the plants and flowers that insects like to eat and pollenate. We will be planting our own flowers in the garden.



Using the above books, the children will be continuing to write sentences using their phonetic knowledge. This will often present itself with words that are spelt incorrectly, however they are phonetically plausible, meaning that the children are using the letter sounds they have learnt in their phonic lessons to blend together to form words. Together with understanding the use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops we will be concentrating on forming our letters correctly and keeping our letters sat firmly on the line.

Maths

In Maths, this half term, we will be continuing to access Power Maths. As Mathematicians, we will be focusing on:

- Consolidating key skills, subitising, composition, counting, sorting and matching, comparing and ordering.
- Counting beyond 10 then beyond 20. Encourage the children to build and identify numbers to 20 using a range of resources. Ten frames, towers of cubes, number shapes and bead strings will help to support children to visualise that larger numbers are composed of full tens and part of the next ten.
- Spatial reasoning. Provide opportunities for children to match arrangements of shapes using positional language to explain where shapes are in relation to one another.

As mathematicians, we will continue to focus on our mathematical vocabulary and our critical thinking skills. This will help the children to make links and notice patterns in their previous learning experience.

P.E

P.E is currently on a Tuesday afternoon. As the session is towards the end of the afternoon your child will go home in their kit, therefore please could you ensure that their kit is returned to school the following week.

Topic

Our topic this term will focus on animals and plants that we find in our garden. We will investigate the life cycles of different animals and look at the different parts of flowers and plants.

We will be looking after our own chicks and caterpillars and we will be spending time in our garden planting, weeding, and watering the flowers and plants. We will also be using non-fiction books to enable us to find out information about different animals/insects and flowers.



R.E

Our initial topic this term is all about "Good News". The children will be asked what they understand good news to be and what examples can they think of.

We will then explore the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples during Pentecost, giving them the courage to spread the Good News of God.

Pentecost is often named 'the birthday of the Church'. The feast celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, who breathed new life into the fearful, timid disciples. It is the Spirit who leads and guides believers into communion with God and fills them with courage and energy for the Christian life.

It is difficult at this age for children to understand the abstract concept of the Holy Spirit. We use images such as air, wind and fire to help us explain the power of the Holy Spirit. The effects of these elements are what we want the children to explore and thereby deepen their understanding.

Phonics

During our Lent term the children began learning the set 2 digraphs (two letters making one sound) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound):

ay: may I play

ee: what can you see

igh: fly high

ow: blow the snow

oo: poo at the zoo

oo: look at a book

ar: start the car

or: shut the door

air: that's not fair

ir: whirl and twirl

ou: shout it out

oy: toy for a boy

This term we will continue to review the set 2 sounds and start to include some oral and written blending to give the children the opportunity to use their phonic knowledge.

Our school website provides information on how you can help support your son's / daughter's phonics development at home.

How can you help?

- Every week your child will receive spellings. Maths and English homework will be set weekly on either Edshed or Education City. Homework will be set on a Friday and will be available to complete by the following Friday. If you have any trouble accessing either of these programs or would prefer a paper copy, please come and see me and I can arrange this for you.
- Reading is a vital part of a child's education. In school your child is bench marked and given a book accordingly. Your child will read in school every day, please continue to support their reading ability by listening to them read each night.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Parkinson