



Baslow St. Anne's C.of.E Primary School
Life in all its fullness
Growing healthy minds and hearts together
Kindness - Respect - Diversity



Welcome to EYFS (Tigers)



What's in the garden?

Dear EYFS Parents,

Welcome back to Spring Term 2 (24th February to 27th March). We hope you all enjoyed half term and that you are looking forward to another exciting term ahead. This is your fourth parent pamphlet which will give you our new topic overview and also provides some important reminders for this next term.

We hope you are ready for another busy term leading up to Easter - there are a lot of celebrations and events to fit in before the next holiday! The children are definitely building up their stamina and with lighter nights coming it feels like Spring is on its way! Our topic this term is called 'What's in the garden?' and is based on learning about plants, what they are and why they matter. It is a geography based topic which allows the children to explore the world of plants and why they are so important to us. We will begin to find out what a plant is and how they differ and how they are similar and why they live where they do and learn about how we can look after plants.

We will continue to help your children settle into the wider school and as always, we are absolutely committed to working with parents and carers to ensure your children continue on their happy and productive journey of school life. As we always say, remember we are very happy to answer any questions and are here to listen to any queries you have **PLEASE** just ask me anything you want.

Thank you in advance for all your help, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you.



Mrs Whitfield and the Tiger Team



Some Important Reminders for the Spring Term



Start of the day: - Tiger door opens at 8.40am. If possible, please encourage your child to come into the classroom on their own to start their morning routine. A member of staff will be in our yard to talk to you and another in the classroom to help your child. This helps them develop that independence and they are all great at sorting themselves, obviously if there is the odd time when they need you to come in you are always welcome. Once in the classroom they will put away their water bottle, book bag and coat and then look for their name card which will be on one of the activity tables. We will then help them to engage with whatever the task is on their table. As always it really does help them if you are confident about leaving them and leave them with a smile. Any issues we will be there to help and reassure you both. If you have an urgent query please have a quick word with either myself, Miss Pettitt or Mrs Beardshaw. Any non-urgent enquiries can be written down in the home/school diary or emailed to me (tigers@st-annescofe.derbyshire.sch.uk) .

End of the day: - 3.15pm We let the children out one at a time to their known adult. If your child is going home with anyone different please do inform us in the morning or if it is going to be a long-standing arrangement (e.g. 623 (after school club)) let us know so we can make a note. If you wish to have a quick a chat, please just wait until all the children have left and then do ask me.

Toys from home: We have toys that the children can play with outside but if they still wish to bring a toy in please ensure it is only the size of their hand (we aren't being grumpy! it is just that their trays get stuck!!)

Uniform and coats: - As with everything they bring to school it should be **NAMED**. Please ensure children bring a **suitable** coat to school every day, even if the weather appears warm and sunny. Derbyshire weather is unpredictable!

Book Bags: Please do check your child's book bag regularly for notes or letters. Now they have quite a collection of sound cards etc. in their reading bags they are getting quite full, we would ask that you. **Please just keep their Home/School diary and reading book in their book bag and bring the book bag to school every day.** Everything else can stay at home until we ask for their return! Please ensure you write in your child's diary whenever you do something with your child at home as it helps us get a full picture of your child's learning. At school your child has an individual reading session at least twice a week, alongside all their other reading activities.

Open Door: We will continue to have this on a **Monday and Thursday** so do please pop in on one of these days to look at your child's work and their classroom - they love to show you even for a couple of minutes. If you can't manage these days let me know, we can sort a different day.

Show and Tell: This is on a **Tuesday** and a lovely opportunity for your child to practice their speaking and listening skills. Your child is very welcome to bring in something to share from home if they wish. When your child brings home a teddy tiger cub and the journal please make sure it is returned by the following Tuesday so the next child can take it home.

Tiger Parent Evenings: Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th March or afternoon of Wednesday 25th March. Details will be given out soon with times to sign up to, please do sign up. This is an opportunity to be able to chat 1 to 1 about your child before we head into the Summer Term.

Summer Term - a quick heads up that after Easter, Friday mornings will be down at the Baslow Park Area - you will drop your child there in the morning - pick up at school as normal. Details to follow.

THANK YOU for your support - it makes a huge difference 😊



This term's topic is "What's in the garden?" where we explore the world of plants. We will be finding out What they are? Where are they? The similarities and differences? Why are they important?

The following will give you a flavour of what is to come for your child this term. Many other learning opportunities will be taking place - do ask if you have any questions.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue with the rules and routines of our classroom and the wider school, with the aim of helping each other be excellent role models and reinforcing the desire to work as the Tiger Team. We hope to fill our 'Kindness' jar before Easter with the treat of an Easter Egg Hunt as our reward. We will continue to encourage the children's independence in looking after their own and the class resources. We continue to encourage turn taking and sharing and we will further explore our feelings and emotions. We will also be looking at what we need to do to maintain healthy minds and bodies through our 'Being Healthy' PSED topic.

Communication and Language

All children will be encouraged to use their speaking and listening skills to talk about the topics we are covering and learn and use new words from these topics. We will practise taking turns to speak and to listen to each other. We will listen to stories and answer questions about them.

Physical Development

We will continue to encourage the children to dress and undress independently for PE as well as becoming adept at taking jumpers and cardigans on and off and putting on painting aprons independently! We continue to develop our large motor skills through using balls, beanbags, hoops, scooters, balance bikes and the trim trail. We will continue with our dough disco sessions alongside physical literacy and will have many opportunities to further develop our cutting, sticking, drawing and making skills through many topic and seasonal related crafts. We are looking at letter formation this half term - learning how to form the different letter families and then to use these skills in our everyday writing. We will continue to work on our lunchtime table manners, using our cutlery and talking quietly to our friends and have opportunities to discuss our healthy eating and self-care.

Literacy

We will be focussing on reading and writing activities based around our new topic on plants, this will include the traditional story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will continue to encourage the children to work on their writing targets - having ideas, making them into sentences, using their Tricky Word and sound knowledge to write words and to use finger spaces between words. We will be introducing using a capital letter to start the sentence and a full stop to finish. We will also continue to work on pencil grip, anchoring paper and correct letter formation. We will continue with our daily phonics lessons and routines with the children learning letter sounds and word building, using segmenting and blending skills. We will revisit all of phase 3 focusing not just on reading them in words through blending but also on segmenting words with these in so we can practise writing them, if you would like ideas on how to help with this at home please do just ask. We will also recap words with double letters, two or more digraphs, compound words and words ending in s, es and ing. We will also be using a range of texts (fiction and nonfiction) linked to our topics of Spring, Easter and plants to stimulate discussions and questions, as well as for the enjoyment!

Maths

We will focus on counting backwards from 10, comparing numbers within 10 looking at more and less and equal. We will continue to explore the different ways of making 10. We will also look at recognising numbers 0 -20 and ordering these. We will look at 3D shapes - building with them, printing and making patterns with them. We will use 2D shapes to make patterns and pictures and look at how shapes fit together.

Understanding the World

We will use programs linked to our topics on the iPads and use the CD player and Interactive Whiteboard. We will look at the different plants that are found in the world - learning that vegetables and fruits that we eat are also plants. We will look at the similarities and differences found in plants. We will learn about the basic structure of flowering plants. We will find out why plants are so important and look at how we can help look after plants. We will use our outdoor area to explore the season of Spring, including (hopefully!) experiencing first-hand the signs of Spring. We will be learning about Easter and why it is such an important Christian festival. We will also look at some of the many other Spring festivals and celebrations that occur during the month of March.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be creating plant, Spring and Easter inspired art including painting, printing, drawing and collage, as well as creating a fruit and vegetable shop in our home corner. We will be making a variety of crafts using both adult led and child initiated ideas including creating an Easter garden to help us learn about Easter. We will also learn about Mother's Day and how this is celebrated.



Top 10 activities for EYFS to do at home in the Spring Term



1. Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, include zips, buttons - encourage that independence.
2. Talk and listen - have a conversation with your child without distractions, introduce them to new words - explain what they mean. See our leaflet on 'Talking to your child about school' for ideas on how to get them to talk about their day.
3. Reading - carry on reading to your child and sharing different books, talk about what is happening in the pictures, what might happen next. Use the comprehension key ring in your child's book bag. Help them to learn the digraphs and trigraphs they bring home and to blend these into simple words. Each child is an individual and learns at their own pace, we will talk to you about the next stage in their reading as they reach it.
4. Maths should be learnt in a practical manner e.g. Counting the stairs to bed, matching socks, recognising numbers on car plates, buses etc.
5. Play games that encourage turn taking e.g. guess who, snap or any board games (also great for maths and language skills - e.g. snakes and ladder)
6. Use technology some great apps to aid learning e.g. comic life, twinkl phonics, beebot, sand write, magnetic letters
7. Encourage writing - a shopping list or a card, value their attempts - having a go and being able to tell you what it says is the most important thing at present. Don't worry about spelling!
8. If they want to write - encourage correct pencil grip (please ask if you're not sure) and encourage correct letter formation but make it fun - practice in sand, shaving foam, cream, flour etc.
9. Encourage them to practice writing their name - using the name card provided and ensuring each letter is correctly formed.
10. Remember school can be very tiring!! Make sure your child gets enough sleep, keep those bedtime and morning time routines going and don't overdo the weekly nightlife! Children who have plenty of rest, downtime and good routines are more likely to have productive and happy days at school.

POSITIVE PRAISE – ENCOURAGEMENT – GROWTH MINDSET – RESILIENCE – PERSISTENCE

Attendance and Punctuality

Please ensure your child is on-time for school every day, doors open at 8.40am. Good attendance is also important and has a direct effect on learning. Children should not take time off unless absolutely necessary.