

LEARNING LETTER - PANDA CLASS Spring 25-26

MY COMMUNICATION Communication and Literacy	MY BODY Physical Skills	MY INDEPENDENCE Skills for Life
<p>This Spring Term 1, our topic is In the Wild: Plants and Growing. Pupils will develop early communication and pre-phonics skills through sensory storytelling linked to food, plants, and growth.</p> <p>We will explore the stories Rainbow Stew by Cathryn Falwell and Oliver’s Vegetables by Vivian French, which support understanding of vegetables, healthy food, and simple sequencing.</p> <p>Pupils will listen to stories, join in with repeated phrases, explore real plants and vegetables, and use symbols, props, and communication boards to make choices and express preferences. Pre-phonics and symbol-supported activities will introduce key vocabulary such as seed, soil, plant, grow, leaf, and flower.</p>	<p>This term, pupils will develop body awareness, coordination, and motor skills through indoor, outdoor, and sensory activities.</p> <p>Gross Motor / PE: Throwing and catching activities and movement games to build coordination and strength.</p> <p>Fine Motor Skills: “Build a plant” activities, playdough seeds and using tweezers with edible seeds to develop grip and control.</p> <p>Outdoor Learning: gardening activities and nature hunts in Forest School.</p> <p>Weekly swimming sessions will continue, building water confidence, whole-body movement, and sensory enjoyment.</p> <p>For <u>Spring Term 2</u>, we will focus on Lasso-style target games, hoopla activities, and line dancing for PE.</p> <p>Fine Motor Skills, we will look at: bandana decorating, straw painting, string lasso shapes, playdough snakes and dream catchers.</p>	<p>This term, pupils will develop independence through sensory play, role-play, and real-life experiences.</p> <p>Identiplay: gardening role-play: planting seeds, watering and digging.</p> <p>Community Experiences: exploring different gardens.</p> <p>Sensory Exploration: Soil, seeds, leaves, colours, and floral scents.</p> <p>Cooking: making vegetable sticks and tzatziki.</p> <p>For <u>Spring Term 2</u>, we will focus on Role play gardening, cowboy small world play, and sensory exploration.</p> <p>In addition, visits and shared experiences linked to the Wild West theme.</p>

<p>For <u>Spring Term 2</u>, we will focus on the Topic: The Wild West.</p> <p>Early communication and listening skills developed through sensory storytelling and repetition and we will explore stories like Cowboy Small – Lois Lensky and Métis Like Me – Tasha Hilderman.</p> <p>We will be joining in with repeated phrases and exploring life in the Wild West, animals, and culture. In addition, we will focus on vocabulary, such as, cowboy, horse, big, small, long, short, sand and gold.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ways you can help your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read food or plant-themed books together and talk about what you see. - Encourage naming or pointing to vegetables during meals or shopping. - Use real objects alongside words to support understanding. - 	<p>Outdoor Learning: totem poles, wigwams and rock art.</p> <p>Weekly swimming sessions will continue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ways you can help your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practise throwing and catching a ball together. - Use playdough to roll, pinch, and press. - Go on nature walks and collect leaves or sticks. - Encourage helping with simple gardening tasks. - Play throwing and aiming games, dance together, and offer fine motor activities like threading or playdough. 	<p>In Food Tech, we will prepare simple snacks and follow instructions.</p> <p>Sensory Exploration: exploring sand, textures, smells, and materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ways you can help your child at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let your child help wash or prepare vegetables. - Encourage role play with toy gardening tools. - Explore different smells and textures together. - Support simple routines and independence skills with praise. - Encourage independence with dressing, tidying, helping prepare food, and exploring sensory play safely.
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MY COMMUNITY PSHE and Cultural Development	MY COGNITION Digital Literacy, Maths and Science	MY CREATIVITY Art and Music
<p>This term, pupils will focus on understanding themselves, others, and the wider community. Our School Values focus is Collaborate, supporting teamwork, sharing, and turn-taking.</p> <p>Our Cultural Engagement event is Chinese New Year, explored through stories, music, colours, food, and crafts.</p> <p>In PSHE, pupils will work on Mental Wellbeing, focusing on managing feelings and using the Zones of Regulation to recognise emotions and learn calming strategies.</p> <p>For <u>Spring Term 2</u>, we will explore Learning about Indigenous American culture, traditions, and International Women’s Day for Cultural Development.</p> <p>In PSHE, we will focus on Healthy eating and different kinds of food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ways you can help your child at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talk about feelings using simple words or visuals. 	<p>This term, our Maths focus is Number: Addition and Subtraction, using concrete objects, vegetables, seeds, and visual supports to explore counting, combining groups, and taking away.</p> <p>In Working World, pupils will explore: vegetables, flowers, and plant identification. What plants need to grow, growing cress in class, fruit, vegetables from different countries, and animals found in the garden.</p> <p>Digital Literacy will focus on using Clicker to explore symbols, simple sentence building, and recording learning with adult support.</p> <p>For <u>Spring Term 2</u>, our Maths focus is we will Comparisons: big/small, long/short, using practical resources.</p> <p>In Working World: Life in the Wild West compared to now, panning for ‘gold’, animals in Wild West climates, and Indigenous American culture.</p>	<p>This term, pupils will explore creativity inspired by nature and plants.</p> <p>In art, pupils will recreate flower artwork inspired by Georgia O’Keeffe, focusing on colour, shape, and texture. Pupils will also explore illustrations of plants found in the texts we are studying.</p> <p>In music, pupils will listen to a range of soothing and classical music, including Waltz of the Flowers, and explore instruments and sounds through sensory music sessions.</p> <p>For <u>Spring Term 2</u>, we will be exploring country and bluegrass music through listening and movement for Art. Also, 3D totem pole sculptures, Native American symbols art and stringed instruments.</p> <p>In Identiplay, we will focus on sand play, small world cowboy play, rocks, cactus textures, feathers and furs.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practise turn-taking games. - Share stories or videos about the Chinese New Year. - Use calming activities such as deep breathing or quiet time. - Talk about different cultures, celebrate positive role models, and discuss healthy food choices. 	<p>In Digital Literacy, we will be grouping, sorting, and categorising activities with adult support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ways you can help your child at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Count vegetables or snacks together. - Talk about plants you see outside or in shops. - Let your child help water plants or observe growth. - Use simple number language like “one more” or “all gone”. - Use everyday objects to compare size and length, sort toys or household items, and talk about differences. 	<p>For Food Tech, we will be making granola or trail mix snacks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ways you can help your child at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage drawing or painting flowers and plants. - Listen to calm music together and notice changes in sound. - Explore different colours and textures in art activities. - Sing simple songs linked to nature or food. - Encourage drawing, building, listening to music, and helping mix or prepare simple snacks.
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