

Arum Class Newsletter
Spring 23rd Feb- 3rd April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you all had a pleasant and restful half term. Please remember to send in your child's shared voice book (yellow scrapbook) in the first week back. The children really love sharing them and it gives them a chance to talk confidently.

The children have returned ready for the challenges of a new term. Everyone really enjoyed our 'What makes a story special? quest and we are sure the children will be equally inspired by our new quest **"How and why does our garden change?"** We will elicit the children's thoughts and ideas to explore this question. Our medium-term plans with further details of our expected learning outcomes are available on the school website within the Curriculum area.

To support our quest, in the next few weeks, we are visiting the garden centre in Chilcompton, we will let you know the date asap. We will purchase some seeds, compost and plants for our garden whilst there. We will be travelling on the minibus but need some adult helpers to comply with our risk assessment. If you are available to help us with this visit please can you let the office know (sorry no siblings). We will be at the garden centre in total for about 1 hour (two minibus runs). Following on from this our role play this term is a garden centre. If you have any items (seeds, plant pots, garden magazines, gloves, artifical flowers, gardening equipment) you could donate to support this we would be very grateful. Thanks.

If anyone has any of the following we would be very grateful;

- PE clothes (for those who forget them as we only have 1 pair of shorts), socks and girls pants.
- Complete Jigsaw puzzles.
- Gardening equipment/resources as mentioned above.
- Newspapers/travel brochures

  Many thanks

Later this term, is British Science week. The children will be involved in simple investigations linked to this, as well as those following our quest which involve growing.

Parents evenings will be later this term please look out for the dates, we look forward to catching up with you on your child's progress.

Just a gentle reminder please can we ask that your child comes to school each day with their book bag. Please can you sign and date your child's reading diary when you have listened to them read. Thank you for all your support in hearing your child read at home

and recapping phonics and tricky words. This is so important in helping your child to become a confident, fluent reader.

We will invite you to another story session after school so you can listen to a story with us with a little treat! We will let you know the date once it's decided.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come, and speak to us.
With best wishes
Arum team.

Our new quest is 'How and why does our garden change?'

LEARNING FOCUS AREAS
The following section describes the focus areas of learning for the class during this half of the Spring term. Our new quest will be developed around the seven areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum:

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
. developing perseverance and resilience
. thinking about others' point of view
. taking turns and sharing
. resolving conflicts with others
. following Jigsaw Scheme of Work; Healthy Me (what keeps us healthy)
. managing own things
. exploring emotions/zones of regulation
. thrive activities

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE
. listening and being attentive in different situations
. learning and using new vocabulary
. responding appropriately to questions and comments
. responding to stories – talking about characters, settings, and retelling
. speaking confidently within a small and large group
. talking about my Shared Voice book and asking questions of others
. creating own stories/developing story structure

LITERACY
. listening to a range of stories and poems and information books
. becoming confident readers/writers using phonic knowledge
. learning how to read and write tricky words
. daily phonics sessions and follow up activities
. practicing letter formation and handwriting
. independent writing for a range of purposes and following interests
. drawing club

MATHEMATICS
. counting accurately to 20 and beyond

. comparing numbers using the correct vocabulary
. 1 more and 1 less using numbers to 10
. doubling, finding and making
. exploring number bonds to 10 in two and three parts
. exploring odd and even
. subitizing (knowing how many without counting)
. recognising, naming and exploring 3D shapes, relating to 2D
. exploring and creating more complex repeated patterns
. using mathematical vocabulary and language to explain reasoning

UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD
. exploring change in our natural environment
. becoming excited about local environment, suggesting changes to it and how we can look after it.
. being Scientists and completing experiments
. planting and gardening
. understanding the effect of the weather/changing seasons on us
. ordering events based on chronology
. make comments on now and the past
. exploring what grows in other countries
. exploring how to improve immediate environments

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
. learning about different festivals – Jewish Passover, Mother's Day, Christian Easter
. exploring why these festivals are important and special

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
. moving in a variety of ways both inside and outside.
. climbing and balancing on apparatus
. jumping and landing safely
. handling tools/scissors and using effectively.
. making sculptures with different medium
. drawing with accuracy
. developing letter and number formation

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN
. plan, make and evaluate miniature gardens
. design and make models using recyclable materials
. develop a range of art techniques and skills using a variety of media
. learn and sing familiar and new songs
. listen and respond to assorted styles of music
. creating own stories for others to act out (helicopter stories)