



# Viaduct Federation of Schools

## FS1 Spring 2 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

We are very pleased with how well the children are exploring and learning in Pre-School. They are enthusiastic about the activities we provide but more importantly they are beginning to come up with their own ideas to enhance their learning. Our September intake have really welcomed and supported the new children who started in January which has been a pleasure to see. Our topic this half term is 'Growing'.

We hope you are finding the children's online learning journal easy to access via Seesaw.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Foundation Stage

#### 1 Teachers



Ella Arscott  
Parrot and Toucan  
Teacher



Mrs Collender  
FS1 TA



Mrs Beale  
FS1 TA



Mrs Khurshid  
FS1 TA

### Subject Overviews

#### Writing

This term we will continue to provide opportunities to develop fine and gross motor skills. There will be activities that will strengthen their muscles ready for writing. They will still have the opportunities to mark make using a wide range of media including crayons, paint, markers, pencils and through our messy play. We will also start to practise writing the first letters in our names.

#### Reading

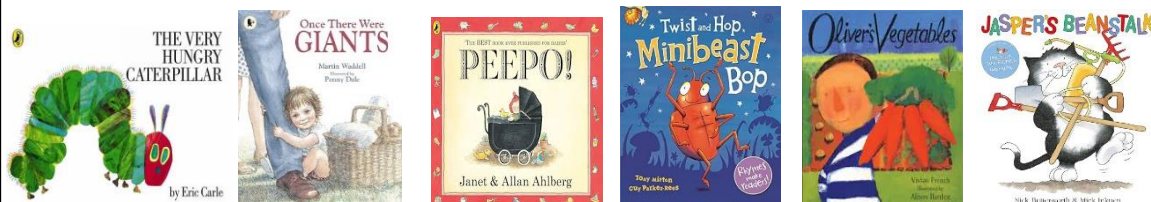
We will share stories related to our topic this half term. Some of the stories we will read together are 'Once There Were Giants', 'Peepo', 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We will continue to develop our rhyming and listening skills which are important pre-reading skills. We will also be continuing our environmental phonics learning where we will listen to familiar sounds around us, create sounds using instruments and our voices, and start to identify the initial sounds in words. Children will be encouraged to retell the stories that we have been learning through role play.

#### Maths

In Maths, we will continue to practise counting numbers 0-6. We will explore numbers through their different representations, 1:1 correspondence and subitising. We will compare numbers to 6 by saying which has more or less when looking at quantities. We will start to look at writing numbers and solving real world maths problems. The children will also be introduced to measure by looking at height, length and capacity. The children will learn about and explore balancing scales, containers and measuring equipment as a class and individually.

#### Topic

We will explore growing and changes in the context of babies, fruit and vegetables. The children will be planting some vegetables in the early Spring and will be looking at how they have changed since being babies! We would love the children to bring in pictures of themselves as babies, toddlers and now. We will then create our own timeline. We will also explore the lifecycle of a caterpillar to see how they change.





Mrs Presswell  
FS1 TA

### **Personal Social and Emotional**

The children will talk about how they feel in the cold and why we need to keep warm. They are learning how to take turns and share. The children will be encouraged to use their words to resolve conflicts. They will think about their feelings through stories and play.

### **Communication and Language**

The children will be introduced to new words associated with growing and changes. Through our activities we will embed the new vocabulary and the children will have the opportunity to apply the words. The children will begin to answer 'why' and 'how' questions in relation to our learning. When reading stories, we will also ask the children how characters might be feeling. The children will be encouraged to talk in full sentences and to explain their answers further. We will be encouraging children to talk about their families and what they did when they were babies.

### **Physical Development**

During their PE lessons, children will continue to explore gymnastics and making different shapes with their bodies. They will practise climbing over, under and through equipment, using benches and tunnels. Our weekly PE sessions will be linked to our topics. Children will also use movement and animal poses to develop their strength ready for writing.

### **Understanding the World**

We will be learning about how plants grow, exploring the life cycle of plants and animals and how they are cared for. The children will learn about the concept of growing up and the changes that happen. The children will have access to seeds, soil, and pots to plant. We will then water and observe them over time.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children will explore our topics using a range of media such as paint, markers, and collage materials. They will develop their awareness of sounds made by various instruments by playing instruments alongside a story. They will be making loud and quiet sounds with their voices and instruments. Children will be encouraged to retell the stories using props and small world resources.

#### **Parent Reminder:**

- ✓ **Please put water in water bottles not juice.**
- ✓ **Please label all clothing to help the children keep track of their belongings.**
- ✓ **Please help your child to be as independent as possible when putting on and taking their coats off.**
- ✓ **PE is Tuesday PM and Friday AM**

#### **Reading at Home**

Please practise with your child finding and recognising their name. Also please continue to share stories with your children at home. Ask the children to explain what has happened in the story. Encourage them to retell and story in their own way or challenge them to predict the story ending. Here are some helpful questions to ask while you are sharing a story:

Where did the story take place?

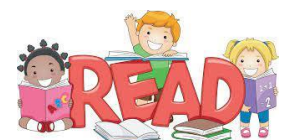
What happened next? Who was in the story?

How did he/she feel?

What is your favourite part?

Can you tell me the story in your words?

Would you tell your friend to read this story? Why or why not?



## Upcoming Events in Spring 2

- Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March - we will be basing the day around the book Biscuit Bear by Mini Grey. Children can dress in World Book Day related costumes.
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March - Comic Relief we will be holding a non-uniform day
- Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April & Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Parent's Evening
- Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April - End of Term

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

### Did you know we now have a Facebook page?

We have created a Facebook page which will show any news and events across the Viaduct Federation of schools, it is titled 'The Bushfield and Wyvern Viaduct Federation of Schools'. Like us and keep up to date with any fun school events and news!



## Attendance Matters



Viaduct Federation of Schools

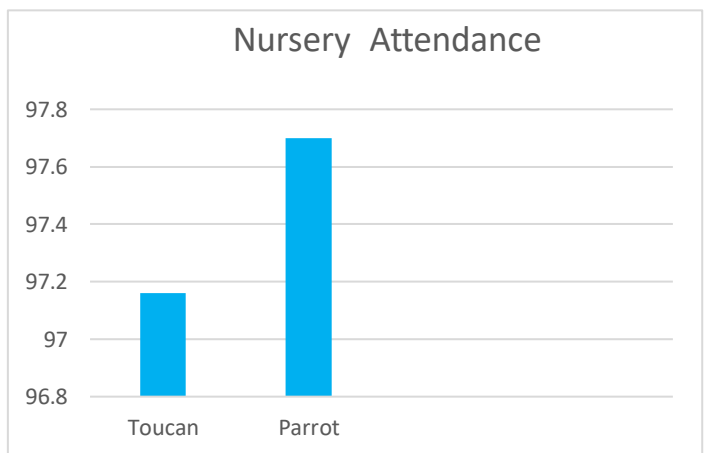
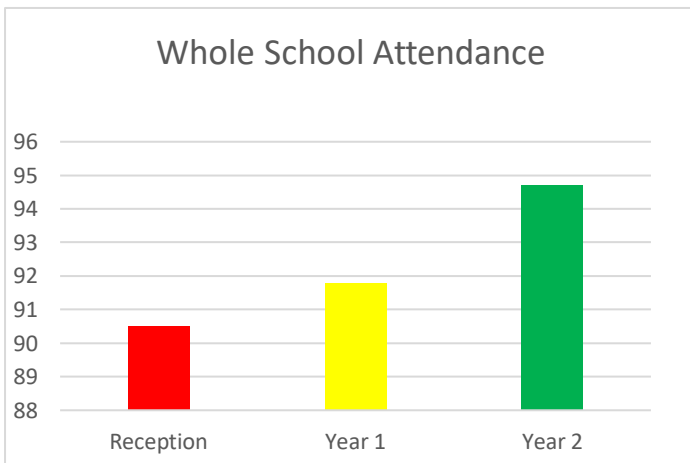


## ATTENDANCE REVIEW

### SPRING TERM

**103 possible days this year**

As you know, pupil attendance is very important and is a focus on schools from both the government and the local authority. In terms of our drive to raise awareness, please see below our classes' average attendance. Thank you for all of your efforts to get the children in everyday does make a difference. Please can we encourage you to keep it up for the summer term.



<p><b>100%</b> attendance</p> <p>72 days of learning</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>0</b> days absent</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>2</b> days absent</p> </div> </div> <p><b>EXCELLENT</b></p> <p>High attendance leads to high achievement and a greater chance of success – Well done!</p>	<p><b>97%</b> attendance</p> <p>70 days of learning</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>4</b> days absent</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>7</b> days absent</p> </div> </div> <p><b>CONCERNING</b></p> <p>Poor attendance makes it harder to progress and limits opportunities for success</p>	<p><b>85%</b> attendance</p> <p>61 days of learning</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>11</b> days absent</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>14</b> days absent</p> </div> </div> <p><b>SERIOUS CONCERN</b></p> <p>Very poor attendance seriously impacts on education and reduces life chances!</p>
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*Be the best you can be.*