

## Important dates and Celebrations:

Friday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	Purim (Jewish)
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> March	St. David's Day
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> March	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> March	Isra and Mi'raj (Muslim)
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Day
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	First day of Passover (Jewish)
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	Daylight Saving Time starts
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	Holi (Hindu)
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> April	Maundy Thursday – <b>End of term</b>
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Good Friday
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

**RISE UP**



Dear Parents and Carers,  
Hope everyone is well and the children are looking forward to returning back to school. We are getting very excited to welcome the children back very soon. They have been doing so well with remote learning and it is always lovely to see their faces. Our first topic this half term is 'Farm Animals' and our core text is 'What the Ladybird heard'. Children will be learning about animals as well as different occupations such as a farmer. We will then move on to our 'Spring' Topic and we will be focusing on the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', where children will look closely at growth and learn about the life-cycle of a butterfly. We all miss the children very much and look forward to having our class together again. Please continue to join us for online learning and we hope to see you all very soon. Miss Dias, Linda and Vicky.

**RISE UP**

**Spring 2 2021**

## Communication and language

Book talk is very effective before reading a story. Looking closely at the front cover and talk about what they can see. You could ask questions like 'What might happen? What might it be about? You could ask children to find different characters on different pages.

You could also encourage children to use key vocabulary for what the ladybird heard.'handsome, dainty, farmer, young, tractor and robber'. For *The Hungry caterpillar* story some of the key vocabulary is 'caterpillar, cocoon, chrysalis, egg, hungry. At home you could talk to children about Spring and new life. Go on a Spring walk and ask children to use their senses to observe what they can see, smell, hear.

## Let's Read and Write

This term our first core book is 'What the ladybird heard'. Children will learn the story and be encouraged to make their very own maps. You could encourage children to make maps of their local area. You could go on a walk and ask children to think about what they see on the way to the local park, so that they can draw a map from home to the park. Children can make their own books, choosing their favourite characters. At home you could support your child to retell the story of what the ladybird heard and the hungry caterpillar. Ask children what happens 'first, next, then' and how does the story end? Always praise your child for any marks they make and ask them to tell you about them. Remember to make lots of comments first before asking questions to model language! Pencil control is something we will continue to work on ensuring that children are developing their fine motor skills.

## Religious Education

This term our RE topic is all about Easter. We will start with talking about the Special time of Lent when we can try our best to pray more and be a good person. Children will learn about the Easter story in depth and begin to think about different parts of the story such as Palm Sunday and the Last Supper. At home you could encourage children to make good choices during Lent and show love and kindness to others. You could talk to your child about what you can do show kindness to others.

## Maths

This half term children will consolidating number recognition and identifying numbers of personal significance. Children will have an understanding that numbers identify how many objects in a set. At home you could try showing your child up to 3 dots on paper and ask them to estimate how many without counting. Can they tell you how many? For shape and space we will continue to learn about properties of shapes and use language to describe 2D and 3D shapes. If a child identifies the shape, ask them to explain how they know. Children will also explore capacity and how much liquid different containers hold. This activity could be done in the bath using jugs and different sized bottles.

# This half term in Nursery...

## Personal Social and Emotional Development

During this special time of lent we would like children to reflect on their actions and begin to think about what they can do to show love and kindness to others. We can demonstrate friendly behaviour and identify when children are being kind and thoughtful towards others.

We will continue to talk about feelings and let children know that it is ok to feel different feelings and to concentrate on what makes them feel good and happy. Support children to feel good about themselves, recognising and enjoying children's success will help them to feel confident.

## Physical Development

This half term we will be encouraging children to be more independent in self-care, such as; getting themselves dressed, putting their coat and shoes on with minimum support. This will also have a positive impact on children's confidence as they are developing skills and independence. Please allow children to do these things for themselves and give them lots of praise for trying as well as celebrating successes.

We will continue to talk to children about making healthy choices and paying attention to the effect of activity on their body. You could talk to the children about the importance of rest when they are tired as well as eating when feeling hungry. It is important for children to explore and play outdoors in order to gain confidence in the world around them. It will also support them with understanding dangers. Please provide your child with lots of opportunity to play outdoors and take some risks in their play.

## We are reading...

### Understanding the World

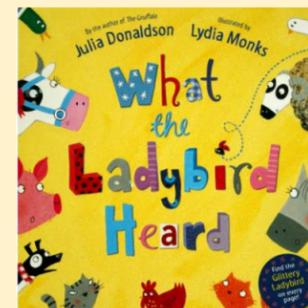
As farm animals is our topic, it is a great opportunity to learn about growth and life cycles. We will be learning about the life-cycle of a butterfly. Children will be encouraged to observe

At home you could talk to your child about growing up and changing. A height chart at home is always a good idea for children to see how they are growing. Share photographs of when they were a baby and discuss what they can do now they are 3 and 4.

### Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be exploring colour and asking children to notice what happens when we mix colour. You could experiment with paint and say things like 'I wonder what would happen if I mixed red and blue together'?

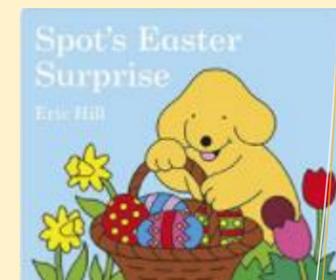
For our farm animal topic we will make animal masks and encourage children to choose different materials and textures. At home you could model language to describe textures such as; hard, rough, smooth, soft, shiny flat and bumpy. Children will experience printing with fruit and vegetables and talk about features of them. They will be encouraged to talk about their likes and dislikes. You could also do this at home during meal times.



What the ladybird heard by Julia Donaldson



The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle



Spots First Easter by Eric Hill

**Just a reminder...**



**Please ensure that you read to your child regularly. This is a fantastic way to build on your child's vocabulary and stimulate their imagination. Make reading fun 😊**