

Our topic this term is **"Living Things"**

Our big question this term is
"What is alive?"

This term, we will be learning about living things, particularly insects and animals. Through this topic, we are hoping to explore:

- The world is made up of both living and non-living things.
- Animals (including humans), insects, and plants are all living things.
- Living things breathe, grow, change, and require nourishment.
- Some living things move and some do not.
- There are similarities and differences amongst living things.
- Living things interact with their environment.
- Living things depend on their environment.

We will provide opportunities for children to explore these concepts through the resources and experiences we provide during their play. As we are learning through play and we follow the interests of the children, we never know where the topic can take us! It may be that your children lead us somewhere we haven't anticipated on the list above.

Acorn Class

Termly Newsletter

Term 3

2021

Welcome to Term 3!

The story we will be learning this term is
"The Very Hungry Caterpillar".

The song we are learning this term is
"The Animals Went in Two by Two",
a classic tune!

Links to all resources for this term will be
posted in the activities section of Tapestry.

Contacting Us

We would love to talk to you about your child. Due to the current situation, speaking with you at drop off and pick up times will be difficult. If there is something you need to discuss, it would be best to send an email. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

cbennett@stmichaelspri.co.uk

egreen@stmichaelspri.co.uk

If you have an urgent query, please send an email to

office.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk
or ring the school office 01235 831 298..

We will be communicating most of the information about Acorn Class using Tapestry this year, so if you have not yet set up your account or are having any trouble accessing it, please let us know so we can get you up and running.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

There are many ways you can help your child develop his or her own understanding of the concepts listed above:

- If you have any pets at home, there are many things you can discuss: What does your pet need to live? Are some of the things similar to what humans need? How is your pet similar to a human? How is your pet different to a human?
- Bring in a photo of any family pets for the talking box.
- Have your child help care for your pet, by feeding it, taking it for a walk, bathing, cleaning out cage, etc.
- Help to care for house plants. Children love to water plants!
- Take a walk outside and make a list of all the living things you see.
- Take a walk to feed the ducks.
- Walk around the allotments and look at the vegetables growing. There are so many plants that grow over the winter!
- Make soup from winter vegetables. (Recipes on Tapestry!)
- We would love to see photos, drawings, hear stories about your child's understanding of living things. Please post photos on Tapestry, or talk to the teachers about ways we can learn more about your child's understanding of living things

Health and Self-Care

Over the course of the year, we will be learning about how people can keep healthy by making healthy food choices, exercising, getting enough sleep and following good hygiene practices, such as brushing teeth and washing hands. We will also learn about how people can keep safe by learning to understand the need for safety when tackling new challenges and being able to consider and manage some risks. Please take the time to discuss these things with your child at home as well.

Part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is to develop independence in self-care. We will be working with children to help them dress independently and to take care of their toileting needs independently in preparation for starting school. Children are able to do a lot by themselves but it does take time. When getting dressed in the morning or before bedtime, try to allow extra time so you can help your child to do this all by themself.

Parent/ Carer Helpers

When government guidance allows, we will invite you to spend some time in Acorn Class. There will be a sign-up sheet on the door of the classroom. If you have any spare time and would like to come in and work with the children and staff, we would love to see you. Some of the things you might be doing include, reading with a small group of children, doing art activities, playing games or as our wood working bench is now fully operational, help the children to learn how to use the resources and supervise the use of this equipment. It is a great opportunity for you to see how our classroom works and what your child is learning.

**We will keep you posted
as to when we will be able
to have volunteers in the
classroom.**

End of Term Performance

We usually have a storytelling and singing performance in the classroom at the end of every short term.

Due to current restrictions, we are not able to invite parents/ carers in for a performance this term. We hope to be able to do this again soon!

Changes to Teaching Staff

This term we welcome Mrs. Emily Green as class teacher on Thursdays and Fridays! She will be sharing the role of class teacher with Mrs. Bennett, who will be teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Teaching Assistants Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Mundy and Mrs. Sayers will all continue to work in Acorn Class this term.

Who We Are



Mrs Claire Bennett



Mrs Emily Green



Mrs Lindsay Collins



Mrs Kara Mundy



Mrs Helen Sayers



Mrs Charlotte Swan