

Some questions the children would like to find the answers to...

What do farmers do with sunflowers?

How is sunflower oil made?

What about bees? we like the honey they make!

What do flowers need to grow?

Why do flowers smell?



# SUNFLOWERS

## Overview

This half term we will start our new topic by looking carefully at a sunflower seed and encouraging 'awe and wonder' as we question 'How does such a tiny seed produce such an enormous plant?'

We are going to spark the children's curiosity, aiming, not only to teach them about plants and growing, but to also encourage a real love and appreciation of their natural environment.

We intend to help them enhance their sense of well-being from being in nature and to develop their vocabulary to help them describe what they can see, hear and feel.



**Preschool**  
**Summer 1 2022**

## Literacy

We will be reading a range of story and information books to help us to become sunflower experts!

There will be plenty of opportunities for the children to talk about the things they know, ask questions and share new learning with one another.

We will be planting our very own sunflower seeds and the children will be asked to give instructions to their peers to help them plant their seed.

The children will continue to focus on tuning into the sounds they hear, playing musical instruments and taking part in a range of activities to help them to practise their listening skills.

Those children who are due to start school in September have just begun to follow our Read Write Inc programme. They are being introduced to the sounds that the letters make, learning to blend sounds together to make a word and having plentiful opportunities to mark make using a variety of resources.

A workshop, (for parents whose child is due to start school in September 2022) is taking place on Friday 13th May at 9.05. We hope to see you there.

## PSED

We will continue to work with the children, helping them to follow, and understand the need for, our three school rules;

**We are kind**

**We are safe**

**We are our best**

## Maths

We will be applying our mathematical skills to help us to learn about sunflowers. We will be counting the days to see how long it takes to see the first shoot appear. We will use our resources to help us to work out how many seeds we need so that all of the children are able to plant one each.

As our sunflowers grow, we will be thinking about how we can measure them.

As part of our learning about artists, we will be creating our own sunflowers using shapes. We will encourage the children to notice what shapes look like (how many sides, corners etc) and will be discussing why we have chosen a certain shape to create our sunflowers.



## Understanding of the World

We will be enhancing the children's natural curiosity about the environment around them. We will look for and learn the names of plants and flowers in our school grounds.

We will continue to develop our garden area where we have now planted a range of vegetable, flowers and herbs!

We will be looking for insects and learning about the important role they play for flowers, and then learning about the life-cycles of both plants and animals.

We will be thinking about how seeds are grown and how they

## Communication and Language

We will be learning lots of new vocabulary during this topic and encouraging the children to use these new words. We will encourage the children to ask questions as they seek to deepen their understanding of what they have observed.

We will be learning a new poem called "A Little Seed." The children will create a whole class poem map to help them to remember it. They will also be learning actions to go alongside the words. They will be performing this poem and this will be shared with you on Tapestry.

## Key Vocabulary

Seed

Soil

Exhibition

Water

Grow

Artist

Pollen

## Expressive Arts and Design



Our Topic Outcome this half term is going to be an Art Gallery, produced by the children, that you will be invited to. We are going to start by looking at the painting 'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh. We will find out about this artist and look carefully at some of his paintings. We will then create our own sunflowers, practising a range of ways to create them.

We are then going to look at the work of Japanese Artist Yayoi Kusama, and compare the different ways the two artists have chosen to represent Sunflowers. The children are then going to be Artists, producing their own piece of work using a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design and texture.



## Physical Development

In our PE sessions we will be focusing on different ways to move, practising stop and go, learning to step up and jump down and working in a team.

We will continue to enjoy using our parachute to create different movements (and even a circus tent!)

The children will continue to practice their cutting skills from making snips to cutting along a line. Please can we ask that this is practised at home.