Didsbury CE Primary School

Belonging Believing Becoming

Thrive CE Academy Trust

Family Learning Guide

Reception | Summer term

Growing independence • confident writing • life cycles • Year 1 readiness

FIRST HALF-TERM Caring for caterpillars, recording changes, releasing butterflies and exploring our community.

SECOND HALF-TERM Minibeast hunts, protecting habitats and preparing independently for Year 1.

The Seven Areas of Learning

Communication & Language

- Children discuss books and facts in greater detail, ask questions to find out more and explain their opinions using words such as "because". We learn topic words from non-fiction, retell stories with actions and listen to several instructions together. We encourage children to speak clearly in a group, build on others' ideas, describe events and explain their thinking using increasingly full sentences.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- We explore what keeps our bodies healthy: sleep, food, exercise, hygiene and staying safe, including road safety. We recognise achievements, grow more independent and talk openly about worries and changes. Visits and conversations help children feel ready for Year 1.



Physical Development

- We practise moving, jumping and balancing with more accuracy and confidence. Children increasingly manage changing for PE and their belongings independently. Outdoor challenges, Dough Disco and handwriting develop pencil control and stamina, helping children form letters and work with greater independence as they prepare for Year 1.



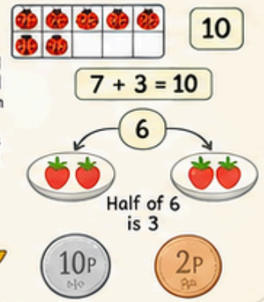
Literacy

- We practise reading with phonics and composing sentences on our own. Children learn to use a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop, then reread to check their writing makes sense. By the end of the year we aim for greater confidenes with independent writing over longer periods.



Mathematics

- We explore numbers within ten, count to twenty and beyond, and investigate doubles, halves, sharing and odd/even groups. We learn different ways to make ten and solve problems with money, mass and capacity. Building projects help us compare sizes, fit shapes together, plan layouts and explain how we solved a problem.



Understanding the World

- In Summer 1 we care for caterpillars, observe and record their changes into chrysalises and butterflies, then release the butterflies safely. We sequence the stages in drawings or words and compare this life cycle with animals and young seen in Nursery. We also explore Didsbury using maps. In Summer 2 we go on minibeast hunts, investigate habitats, record what we find and consider how litter affects living things.



Expressive Arts & Design

- We create patterned papers inspired by Eric Carle, explore printing and make collages from observations. We mix colours and draw portraits with growing confidence. We extend Stage 6 block play by independently planning recognisable structures, working as a team, choosing resources thoughtfully and adapting designs when something does not work.



A LITTLE IDEA FOR HOME Look for minibeasts outside, observe them gently and draw or write what your child notices. Ask them to explain the stages from caterpillar to butterfly.

Our curriculum is flexible: experiences may be adapted or revisited to match children's interests and needs.

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Our Reading & Rhyme Journey

Our core texts are explored in more depth; supporting stories enrich our daily reading. We also revisit favourite rhymes throughout the year.

Summer 1

CORE TEXTS • Original book cover artwork







OTHER STORIES WE WILL SHARE













NURSERY RHYMES & SONGS

- Hey Diddle Diddle
- Ten in a Bed



Summer 2

CORE TEXTS • Original book cover artwork







OTHER STORIES WE WILL SHARE











NURSERY RHYMES & SONGS

- Miss Polly had a Dolly
- Old Mother Hubbard

