



MANOR PARK CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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Dear Families,

Welcome back to the second half of the summer term. We hope you have all had a lovely break and are ready to get back to Preschool.

Our topic this half term is 'Down in the Garden '

Here is some information to outline what your children will be learning this half term in all the different curriculum areas. Do encourage your child to tell you about what they have been learning at school – it really helps the children to secure their learning when they discuss it with others.

In communication and language (including reading and writing) we are learning:

This half term, the children will be immersed in story making. They will be introduced to a range of key stories all about 'the garden'. Over the course of the half term, they will listen to the stories and will be introduced to key Makaton signs to support the story. They will then be introduced to a story map which will have pictures to help them to retell the story.

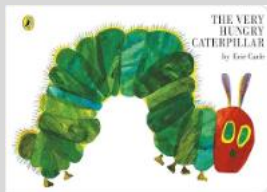
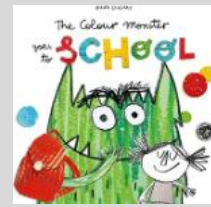
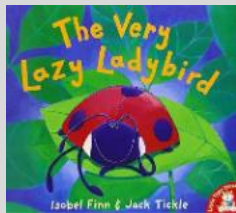
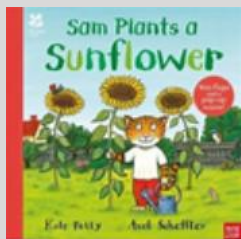
Children will learn new vocabulary linked to Down in the Garden and will have plenty of opportunities to use and practise new words in role play and small world opportunities.

They will be encouraged to answer 'what' and 'why' questions and will be prompted to ask their own questions in order to learn new things. Adults will model how to answer their questions through the use of information texts and the internet.

Children will be encouraged to draw and make marks about their learning and will be asked to give meaning to their marks. Our older children (our Pinecones) will be encouraged to hear dominant sounds in words and may be able to write them down and/or find them on a sound mat.

We will explore songs, rhymes and stories which rhyme and will be able to identify words which rhyme. We will play a range of games to support and develop children's understanding of rhyme.

These are the key texts which we will read to the children throughout the half term, although there will be many others to support their learning about 'Down in the garden.' Sharing stories and developing a love of reading is at the heart of all we do and children therefore hear around two to three stories with us each day (and not forgetting lots of rhymes!)



In **Physical development** we are learning:



In Physical development, children will be developing a range of gross motor skills. They will be taking part in team sport activities and will be preparing for our upcoming sports day. Children will continue to develop their jumping, balancing and climbing skills. They will be practising to throw, catch and dribble a ball.

We will also be preparing for Sports Day - a letter will be sent to families this week with details. Please note, our sports day event on the school field will be for Pinecone children only and our Acorn children will take part in activities with the Preschool team.

Children will also continue to develop their fine motor skills by taking part in activities which help to develop their wrist, hand and finger dexterity and strength. They will explore tweezers, threading, and building using a range of construction such as Duplo, playdough and clay.

Phonics

Our Pinecone children (those children who will be starting school in September) will continue to follow our Pip and Pap phonics scheme which is used across the school. They will continue to learn three new sounds a week. We will practise saying the sound when they see the letter, be able to hear sounds in words and will be able to orally blend sounds together to make a word. For example, p-i-n makes pin. Oral blending will be a key focus for us this half term.

We will practise writing these sounds in a range of ways- using chalks, paint, pencils and pens (to name a few!)

Our younger children will continue to take part in a range of activities to support and develop their listening, speaking and attention skills.

In **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)** we are learning:

Helping to support and develop children's personal, social and emotional skills is one of the prime areas in the early year framework. It helps them to interact effectively, develop positive attitudes and manage their feelings and behaviour. Children will be encouraged to take turns and share resources, they will play games which build upon key skills, they will take part in small group work and learn to play with other children, taking turns in conversation. They will learn to talk about their feelings and will begin to use strategies to help to support them with their feelings.

Alongside our approach, our Pinecone children follow our myHappymind scheme which also helps to support and develop their PSED skills.

Our myHappymind learning will focus on-

In **Mathematics** we are learning:



Our Acorns will be learning to:

Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.
Select a small number of objects from a group when asked.
Compare amounts, saying 'lots', 'more' or 'same'.
Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle etc.
Talk about and identify the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper.
Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs' etc

Our Pinecones will be learning about:

2D and 3D shapes
Number composition
What comes after?
What comes before?
Numbers to 5

In **Expressive Arts** we are learning:



Children will continue to develop their creative skills. They will have their own ideas about the things that they would like to create and will begin to be able to select resources independently in order to create them. They will explore colour mixing, moulding using playdough and clay and take part in a range of activities to develop their scissor skills.

Children will listen to music and will be encouraged to match movement to this. They will use musical instruments and play them to a simple beat. They will learn new songs and will be able to sing them.

They will also explore the artwork of Eric Carle, with a particular focus on his 'The Hungry Caterpillar' creations. They will look at his artwork and will then learn new techniques to create their own works of art.

In **Understanding the World**, we are learning:



The topic 'Down in the garden' which will support children's Understanding of the World by encouraging curiosity about planting and growing and bug habitats. Through hands-on activities, stories, and exploration, children will learn about different minibeasts, their environments, and the importance of caring for them and our plants. This topic will help develop their observation skills, introduce basic scientific concepts such as planting and growing, and promote an early awareness of environmental responsibility. By exploring seeds through sensory play, children will also begin to make connections between their own experiences and the wider world around them. We will plant sunflower seeds and learn about the environment that they need to be able to grow. Observe how they grow by watching them over a period of time and drawing pictures to show the changes that are happening to them.

In **RE** The children will be introduced to a selection of well-known Bible stories. Through a variety of engaging and age-appropriate activities—including storytelling, songs, role-play, crafts, and discussion—they will begin to explore the themes and values within these stories, helping to develop their understanding of faith, kindness, and making good choices.

Additional class information:

PE days

PE days will continue to be on a Monday and a Wednesday. Please ensure that your child comes into Preschool wearing blue jogging bottoms or leggings, a white t-shirt and their blue school jumper or cardigan. Please also ensure that they are wearing trainers.

Please note, our curriculum gives us plenty of opportunities to support your child's physical development so if they do not attend on a Monday and/or a Wednesday please be assured that they will still have many opportunities.

Library books/Pip and Pap books

We will continue to change your child's library book every week. If your child is in Preschool on a Tuesday please ensure that their library book is in their bag ready to change. If they are not in on a Tuesday, we will change it the next day that they are in. We will weekly change pinecones pip and pap books so please make sure these are in weekly. Thank you.

Tapestry/Arbor

Please continue to check Tapestry and Arbor regularly for any updates. We will continue to make observations on Tapestry and ask that you also make observations. If you are having any problems accessing these, please speak to a member of the team. Please ensure that you have downloaded both apps.

Dates for the diary

If your child is due to start in our Reception classes, these are the following events (a letter has gone out to you)

- Tuesday 26th June- picnic event (Pinecone children, please refer to letter sent to you)
- Pinecone Preschool Moving on party- Tuesday 14th July 1.30-3- Invitation to follow.
- Thursday 9th July/Friday 10th July- Meet the teacher meetings for those children moving up to Reception

Other dates

- Tuesday 23rd June- Early Years Sports day (9-10am)-Pinecone Children only. Acorn Children sports in Hall. (Letter to follow)
- Friday 17th July- last day of term

Reminders

We had a number of children arriving late to their sessions last half term. When children arrive late, this not only impacts on their learning but also is unsettling for the other children. **Please can we ask that you arrive on time.** Many thanks for your support.

Please ensure that your child has spare clothes in their bags (trousers, top, jumper and underwear). Many thanks.

Please remember to access Tapestry regularly to view observations and to add your own observations about your child's 'wow' moments

Please make sure that you have downloaded Arbor as this is how we share messages and news with you. If you are having problems downloading this, please speak to a member of staff at the office who will be happy to help you.

Ideas to support your child's learning at home

- ★ Read a range of fiction and non-fiction books linked to our 'down in the garden' topic
- ★ Learn about bugs and habitats
- ★ Go on a minibeast hunt and research what you found either on the internet or in an information book
- ★ Visit a local library
- ★ Continue to practise their cutting skills at home (supervision recommended!)
- ★ Share stories and rhymes with your child on a daily basis

We look forward to a fantastic half term!

The Preschool Team