

St Joseph's Pre School

Summer 1 – The Wonder of New Life

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Communication and Language	Understanding the World	Literacy	Maths	Expressive Arts and Design	Key Texts
Children will: - Develop care and responsibility for living things. - Work collaboratively during planting and gardening. - Explore feelings linked to change, growth and new beginnings. - Build confidence sharing observations and ideas. - Celebrate achievements as plants grow and caterpillars transform. Key experiences: - Caring for class plants.	Children will: - Strengthen fine motor skills through planting, digging, threading and painting. - Develop gross motor skills through outdoor gardening and movement games. - Practise independence in dressing for outdoor learning. - Explore sensory materials linked to nature. Key experiences:	Children will: - Learn vocabulary linked to growth, plants, seeds, caterpillars and butterflies. - Talk about changes they observe in plants and minibeasts. - Retell stories such as <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> and <i>The Tiny Seed</i>. - Follow instructions during planting and gardening activities.	Children will: - Learn about life cycles (seed → plant, caterpillar → butterfly). - Explore what plants need to grow (soil, water, light). - Observe seasonal changes in spring. - Learn about Easter as a celebration of new life. - Use simple technology to observe and record changes. Key experiences:	Children will: - Engage with stories about growth, seeds and caterpillars. - Sequence events from <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> and <i>The Tiny Seed</i>. - Create marks, drawings and early writing linked to plants and minibeasts. - Recognise and write their names on planting pots and artwork. Key experiences:	Children will: - Count seeds, petals, leaves and minibeasts. - Compare sizes, lengths and heights of plants. - Explore patterns using natural materials. - Use positional language during planting and small-world play. Key experiences: - Measuring sunflower growth. - Sorting seeds by	Children will: - Create artwork inspired by flowers, seeds, butterflies and caterpillars. - Explore colour mixing and patterns. - Engage in imaginative play linked to gardens and minibeasts. - Use music and movement to represent growth and transformation. Key experiences: - Butterfly symmetry painting. - Sunflower collages inspired by <i>Katie and the Sunflowers</i>. - Caterpillar models using	seed, plant, grow, soil, water, sun, leaf, stem, root, caterpillar, butterfly, cocoon, chrysalis, life cycle, spring, new life, flower, petal, change Katie and the sunflowers – James Mayhew The case of the missing caterpillar – Sam Goodwin The Very Hungry Caterpillar



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• Observing caterpillars and releasing butterflies. • Talking about patience and waiting for changes. • Sharing Easter celebrations.	• Planting sunflower seeds. • Digging and watering in the garden. • Butterfly and flower movement sessions. • Using tools safely (trowels, watering cans).	• Engage in discussions about new life and seasonal change. Key experiences: • Story retelling with props and sequencing cards. • Talking about what plants need to grow. • Describing caterpillars and butterflies. • Using magnifying glasses to observe changes.	• Planting and caring for sunflowers. • Watching caterpillars transform into butterflies. • Exploring spring nature outdoors. • Using magnifiers, cameras or tablets to record growth.	• Making life cycle books. • Drawing and labelling plants. • Writing name labels for seeds. • Creating story maps.	size and shape. • Creating repeating patterns with petals or leaves. • Counting caterpillars and butterflies.	recycled materials. • Spring and Easter crafts.	– Eric Carle Sam plants a sunflower – Petty Schfflier The Tiny Seed – Eric Carle
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Curriculum Intent

Our intent for this topic is to help children explore the awe and wonder of growth, change and new life through hands-on experiences and rich story texts. Children will learn about life cycles, plants, caterpillars, butterflies and the natural world, developing curiosity, care and respect for living things. Through planting, observing changes and engaging with stories, children will build early scientific understanding, vocabulary and problem-solving skills.

The topic supports children's spiritual development as they learn about new life in nature and within the Easter season. It encourages creativity, imagination and expressive arts through colour, pattern, movement and storytelling inspired by flowers, seeds and minibeads. Children will develop communication, social skills and emotional understanding as they work together to nurture plants and observe living creatures. This topic aims to foster a sense of wonder, responsibility and appreciation for God's creation.

