

Spring Term in Early Years —

Our Focus Aspirations— Becoming storytellers and using rich and diverse vocabulary, Becoming gardeners and growing and picking our own vegetables, Becoming guardians of the planet, learning, loving and caring for nature, Celebrating ourselves and our Community.

Key Texts:



And once again....I'd like to say how amazingly your children have settled in to school life at St Alban's and how very proud I am of them! We are really enjoying this term and despite the rain, we've been able to get out and start weeding and tidying our planters in readiness for sowing! We have researched as a class the plants we can start to grow now and in to February and have decided on garlic, onions, broad beans and potatoes as a good starting point! We have been reading some lovely stories linked to this— a favourite was Oliver's Vegetables. As with every book we enjoy, we chose some key vocabulary and created actions for each word which helped us to recognise and understand them as we read and then to use these words in our play and talk. We also tasted the vegetables from the story and the children were fantastic at talking about why these fresh foods are so much better for our bodies and brains and well being than processed foods. Next week, we're reading Oliver's Fruit Salad which I know they'll love just as much. Throughout the Spring term we'll continue to make the most of our lovely outdoor spaces and notice the seasonal changes—we've already spotted some spring bulbs beginning to grow.

At Home... We are really focussing on oracy skills in Oak Class, as well as all things relating to the natural world. When you are having those lovely story sharing times with your child, really encourage them to talk about any words they're unsure of and explore the sound and meaning of them and then encourage and model using them in everyday conversation to expand vocabulary and expressive communication skills.

PHONICS

We will be continuing on our Phonics journey and learning a few more new sounds, before pausing to consolidate all the new sounds we've encountered. We continue to be very grateful for your support with encouraging the children to learn and use the sounds with their Bottletop Sound buttons each week. Also thank you for supporting them with their homework which allows them to practise recognising, using and writing them. Their blossoming handwriting skills are a pleasure to see. We will continue to regularly assess the children, so they can be supported based on the number of sounds they know, and their oral blending skills. They will be revisiting sounds to ensure they are secure, and then will extend their phonic knowledge, learning new sounds and how to apply them in reading and writing.

AT HOME: Continue to read 5 times a week with your child. Explore other stories they are interested in. Try to find time to share a bedtime story and talk about what you are reading. Encourage them to make their own versions of stories. Ask for their help with writing in lots of different contexts, they are becoming experts at thinking of and writing sentences! Remember—don't worry about correct spelling, they can use the sounds they know to write phonetically!

Maths

Capacity Children are exploring the language of capacity and had great fun experimenting with the concept of 'overflowing' whilst we used water in Maths recently! Any time they are cooking or helping to fill the bath, encourage the use of capacity terms such as empty, half full, full and overflowing!

6,7,8: We continue with our deep exploration of number by focussing on these 3 numbers next—subitising, counting and comparing using resources around the classroom. We've been noticing patterns so that we can see the different ways these amounts can be made up.

1 More, 1 Less: We are practising the language of more and less and using concrete resources as well as number ladders to solve more and less problems.

AT HOME: You can create number flash cards to 10, shuffle them, show the children cards at random and they have to say the number that is 1 more than the shown card and 1 less than it. It's fun and pacy and great practise!

Other things to remember

Please do name all your child's belongings so they can easily find their things amongst all the others! And if you can reinforce the learning we're doing about healthy eating and healthy minds and bodies, that would be brilliant—lots of fresh healthy food and limited processed really does make such a huge difference to their development and well being and they have been really good in class at tasting different foods. A few very brave souls even tried unsweetened rhubarb... resulting in some very entertaining facial expressions!

Mainly though... a huge thanks for all your amazing help and support, they are flying!! Miss Fine