



Year R, Summer 1

Under the Sea and Pirates: Learning Overview

Communication & Language

- We will learn new vocabulary in line with our topic and then challenge children to use this new vocabulary through the day
- We will encourage children to ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.
- We will plan “book talk” sessions around the books we read as a class so that children are encouraged to join group discussions around books every day.
- We will read, share and perform poems too.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- We will be returning to our SCARF modules for PSHE and focusing on the “Being my best” module to really gear the children up for recognising success as we approach the end of Year R
- We will be encouraging children to begin to resolve conflicts with their peers more independently (adult support still available if needed though!)
- In line with our topic we will learn about keeping safe around water.

Physical Development

- We will continue to be using our core strength in our Kinetic Letters sessions and PE warmups to get into our animal positions of a strong bear, penguin, lizard, stone lion and meerkat.
- Children who continue to require support to develop their fine motor skills will receive it.
- All children will learn how to correctly form capital letters and numbers using Kinetic Letters formation.

Literacy

- This half term we are reading a variety of books linked to our topic, including *Billy’s Bucket*, *Somebody swallowed Stanley*, *The under the sea cleaning spree*, *The boy who unplugged the ocean*, *The Pirates who lived next door*, *Steve terror of the sea* and *Have you filled a bucket today?*
- This term in Phonics we will teach Phase 4. There are not new graphemes taught but we will focus on consonant blends, which is where two consonant sounds are put together (e.g. **sil**k, or **poi**nt), longer words and words which end with the -ed suffix.
- We are using our phonic knowledge to form words, captions and sentences related to books from our topic.
- We are now building our expectations around sentence writing, teaching children capital letters for sentence starts, full stops at the end)and finger spaces between words.

Maths

This half term we will focus on:

- counting larger quantities and things which cannot be seen
- subitising numbers to 6 – remember this is where you notice a small amount without counting
- the composition of 6, 7, 8 and 9 as ‘5 and a bit’
- finding different ways to make 10. Pairs of numbers which make 10 (e.g. 2 and 8) are known as numberbonds to 10
- our knowledge and understanding of 2D shapes

Understanding of the World

The children have been interested in and playing in our Beach shop roleplay areas in our classroom. We will also work together to create large pirate ships in our outside areas. We will conduct investigations to explore floating and sinking and we will learn about what can be found in the different oceans of the World.

Expressive Arts & Design

- We are going to spend time taking part in play projects where we need to make boats, waterproof clothing and sea cleaning machines
- In our music sessions with Miss Cooke we are letting music tell the story. This involves us using our voices, body percussion and instruments to create sound effects to accompany stories.



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Routines and clothing

PE: Thursdays

Forest school: Fridays

As the weather gets warmer please remember that when children go into the woods they need to have their arms and legs covered to protect them from bug bites. Extra clothing can always go in book bags to be changed into or taken off after the woods.





In Year R children tend to spend more of the day outside than in later years so it is particularly important that they start to come to school with a **sun hat** and wearing **sun cream**. Your child can keep a named bottle of sun cream in school but staff can only supervise application, not put

it on for the children. **We strongly encourage you to consider buying an all day suncream which you apply to your child before they come to school.** This means you can feel confident it is properly applied, and you do not have to worry about sun cream stains on school uniform or your children losing learning and play time at school.



We know we've said it before, but if you do only one thing suggested on this newsletter, **check all of your child's jumpers and cardigans are named.** Please consider the impossibility of returning an unnamed jumper in a sea of almost 300 other unnamed green jumpers. Saying it's a 4-5y cardigan from TU, or expecting your child to smell all 300 jumpers to identify your detergent is not reliable! In order for every family to keep their items it requires the support of every family to name their items and also return items if they do ever mistakenly take home an item belonging to someone else. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Dates for your Diary

2nd May	As part of our topic 'Under the sea and Pirates' we are inviting children to dress up like a pirate . We will be doing lots of activities based around pirates including searching for treasure in the woods, making hats and drawing treasure maps. Please remember to keep arms and legs covered for the woods. Feel free to be as creative as you like but please don't feel you have to spend a fortune on an outfit, jeans and stripy top will be fab!	
15th May	Class photo day	
4th June		Trip to Longdown Farm – as per the letter sent to you before half term and on the website please remember that permission slips and payment needs to be returned by Friday 16th May

Further information on dates for your diary can be found by scanning the QR code:



Transition to Year 1

Helping your child to feel ready to move to Year 1 will start in earnest next term, but we did want to make you aware of a couple of things now:

- We will not be mixing the classes as the children move into Year 1. This is something we have done in the past, but our feeling is that the move up to Year 1 and the KS1 curriculum is enough change for them, and so staying with the children they know best will help them to feel safe and secure.
- If you have gotten into the habit of walking your child all the way to the classroom door in the morning, please can we ask you to stop. Say your goodbyes on the playground and then do your very best not to step foot through the gate into the Year R area. When they move to Year 1 they will need to walk up those stairs alone, so this helps them to get used to this. Thank you for your help with this.

