

# Reception : Roots and Shoots

## 1. Key Vocabulary

### Communication, Language and Literacy:

**explain**– to give reasons for  
**now**– at this time, directly, immediately  
**then**– soon after; next  
**because**– for the reason that  
**above**– in a higher place  
**below**– in a lower place

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

**attempt**– to try, to make an effort  
**decision**– the act or result of deciding  
**difficult**– hard to do  
**improve**– to make or become better  
**private**– not public, for a single person/group  
**seek**– to go in search for

### Mathematics:

**measure** - to find the size or amount of something  
**order**–to arrange objects in a sequence  
**total**– the whole number or amount  
**symmetrical**– similar parts facing each other  
**check**– to look over your answer and working  
**combine**–join groups to make a whole

### Understanding the World:

**season**– a time of the year depending on weather  
**grow/growth**– to develop  
**calendar**– arrangement of time in to days, months, years  
**leaf**– green flat part that stems from twigs and plants  
**flower**– part of a plant with colourful petals  
**petal**– one of the bright coloured leaves on a plant

### Expressive Arts and Design:

**presentation**– the act of presenting  
**musical**– related to writing or performance of music  
**tone**– a musical sound having a definite pitch  
**produce**– to prepare and present to the public  
**result**– to come about as an effect or consequence  
**range**– a series of things

## 2. Curriculum Knowledge

Our topic this half term is “Roots and Shoots” where we will look at plants and flowers and the process of growing.

This half term is about observing the environment, discussing differences between seasons and learning about the life cycle of beans and other plants.

We will discuss favourite fruits and vegetables and where they come from.  
 We will learn that we need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.  
 We will continue talking about different factors that support our overall health and wellbeing.



	Enterprise	Communication	Well-Being	Possibilities	Environment
<b>Drivers:</b>	We will grow our own plants, flowers and vegetables.	We will understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.	We will think about how we can look after our bodies and minds through healthy eating.	We will look at and learn about different jobs involved in looking after the environment.	We will look at our environment and how we can respect and care for all living things.

## 3. Communication and Language

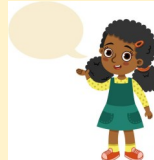


We will have weekly circle time sessions that will involve the children learning new vocabulary and also provide a vast range

of opportunities for children to accurately apply learnt vocabulary confidently and effectively in day to day conversations. This will be demonstrated in practical activities such as interacting with continuous provision, opportunities for role play and school outings that coincide with their current learning.

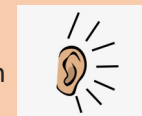


Children will be supported to build on their communication and language skills by articulating their thoughts and ideas in well-structured sentences as well as being able to respond to open ended questions using words such as 'because' to further explain their response.



## 4. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Through a range of teacher led and child initiated activities children will develop their skills of paying co-operatively and listening to each other's views and opinions. They will be encouraged to independently use social phrases with each other, always showing kindness and manners in their interactions. They will take turns in their play and talk with each other to solve problems.



Children will develop confidence in expressing their own views and opinions.

The importance of following class rules will continue to be embedded with children developing an awareness of how their behaviour must adjust for different situations.

## 5. Physical Development

Children will focus on developing skills such as body strength, coordination and balance in their weekly PE lessons.

To develop their fine motor skills children will use a range of tools such as pencils, crayons or brushes, they will draw plants and vegetables related to our topic this term “Roots and Shoots”. We will have the opportunity to use different gardening tools such as spades and forks. During the spring term we will be sowing our own vegetables: broad beans, corn, tomatoes.

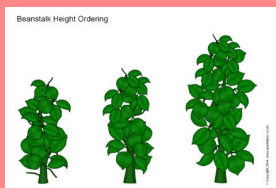
All the children will have the opportunity to grow a small plant (cress seeds), we will write a journal and observe how it grows.

## 6. Mathematics

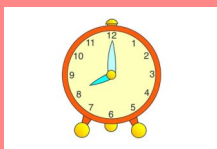
In maths, children will continue practicing counting; recapping compositions of 6, 7 and 8 whilst also learning the numbers 9 and 10 in more depth.



Children will study height and length and relating to our topic 'Roots and Shoots' children will get to compare heights and lengths of plants and put them in order. We will also look at 3D shapes and their properties.



Learning will be done through practical activities such as role play and cooking with fruits and vegetables.



We will learn the days and months of the year including knowing key times of the day (hours only) shown on clocks. To support children with times of the day and to fit in with our

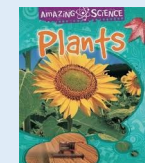
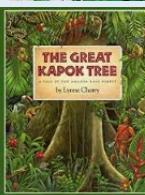
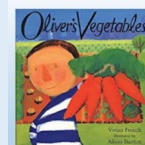
topic we will have opportunities to grow beans and observe the process each day. Children will also learn about important months such as birthdays, festivals and national holidays.

## 7. Literacy

This term we will transition into a fluent style of reading and writing. Children will continue to apply their phonic knowledge and begin to read words by sight and continue developing the foundation of structured sentences that can be read by themselves and others, with a key focus on letter formation, the use of finger spaces and full stops.

To support children in being able to do this successfully, they will be encouraged to orally rehearse their sentences before writing them. A wide range of fiction texts will be used as a basis to support purposeful writing. These texts include repeated refrains where children will join in as well as the retelling of stories using the talk for writing model, ultimately creating a love for both reading and writing.

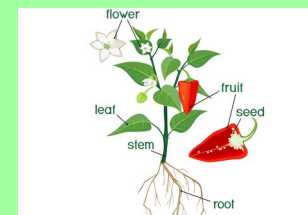
The expectation is for children to build on their current knowledge of Non-Fiction texts by identify its key features: contents page, headings and real-life illustrations. These books will support children in research tasks and provide opportunities for key vocabulary to be used in context.



## 8. Understanding the World

This term the children will be learning all about plants.

We will investigate what conditions are necessary for plants to grow by planting our own range of seeds and observing the changes that take place during growth.



We will also learn all of the correct vocabulary for the different parts of a plant.

Children will learn about which plants you can grow to eat and use these during a cooking session, helping them learn about the importance of eating a balanced diet.



## 9. Expressive Art and Design

Through a range of teacher led and child initiated activities, children will develop their EAD skills. Children will use natural objects to create collages, rubbings and prints. They will carefully observe the small details hidden away in branches and leaves. Observational drawings and paintings will be used to develop children's sense of line, shape and form.



In music, children will learn songs linked to our topic such as songs about vegetables and plants. They will also be given an opportunity to further explore instruments and compose their own music!

