

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 <b>Chicks!</b> We are learning all about chicks!!!! Perhaps at home you and your Reception class child could see if you could find out interesting facts about chicks through books or by looking for this information together on a computer / on the internet. They are welcome to write down or draw and share their super fact with their friends at school!	19	20	21	22 Pre-school's amazing little caterpillars will be arriving today!! We can't wait to watch them develop into beautiful butterflies in our butterfly garden in class!!!	23	24
	26 <b>Gross motor skills</b> In Pre-school we are building up children's balance and co-ordination skills. At home, perhaps you and your Pre-school child could make your own 'trim trail' or obstacle course in the garden! You might include a skipping rope laid on the ground, or make your own stepping stones to balance across!	27	28	29	30	1 

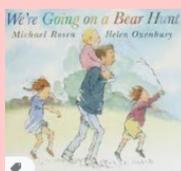
## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 	3	4 <b>Doubles!</b> At home, Reception class children could practise doubles! You could use practical, fun activities, e.g. making a shopping list with 'double 3 bananas' for your child to work out, or painting a ladybird with 'double 4 spots'!! You could even make up your own games, e.g. roll a dice and do double that many star jumps, hops or jumps!!! We are aiming for children to know these doubles 1 to double 5 off by heart!	5	6	7	8 
9 	10 <b>Bug hunts!</b> At home perhaps you and your Pre-school child could have fun searching for different minibeasts and bugs! You could talk about their different features and encourage your child to use full sentences as they describe what they notice...	11	12	13	14	15
16 	17	18 <b>Nursery rhymes are amazing!!!!</b> Your Pre-school or reception class child could have fun learning new nursery rhymes with you!!! Traditional rhymes are fabulous for developing children's vocabulary. At home maybe you could learn a new nursery rhyme every week!!!	19	20	21	22
30	31	25 <b>Bible stories</b> In school we have been learning about the <b>Easter story and Pentecost story</b> Perhaps at home, Reception class children could read other favourite bible stories such as Noah's Ark!	26	27	28	29 
Half term holiday. Return to school on Monday 5th June.						

## Pre-school News

### Communication and language

The children in Pre-school love telling 'Helicopter stories'! We will be practising telling longer stories as we start to develop our communication skills and talk using longer sentences. Songs and nursery rhymes are fantastic for developing children's vocabularies, awareness of alliteration and awareness of rhyming words! We will continue to develop our repertoire of songs and nursery rhymes through fun circle time sessions every day. One of our class stories this half term is 'Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. We will be listening to the story, joining in with repeated refrains, acting it out and getting involved in lots of fabulous art and craft activities to help embed our understanding of what happens in the story!



### Personal, social and emotional development

Our key focus this term is encouraging children's friendships and supporting children in getting involved in extended play with their peers, sharing ideas, taking turns and working collaboratively with others. This will include opportunities for children to think and talk about how they feel and to begin to understand how others might be feeling.



### Physical Development

As we start to further develop our gross motor balancing skills we will be building obstacle courses and practising choosing our own resources, collaborating with each other on how to move the resources and making our own decisions as we choose how to move from one area to another. To support our super fine motor skills we will be continuing to explore making messages as we practise a developing and using comfortable pencil grip.



### Other areas of learning...

We will be exploring bugs and butterflies, bumblebees, birds and beetles as we investigate shape, colour, textures, explore patterns. Our class story 'Mad about mini beasts' by Giles Andreae will be inspiring us as we learn facts about bugs and beasts whilst also exploring rhyming words and text. We can't wait to watch our own little butterfly eggs grow and release them into our garden!!! We will be going on bug hunts and marking off the critters and birds as we find them. In Literacy we will be making up silly rhymes and practising clapping out syllables, discussing initial sounds and exploring environmental sounds as we embed our phase 1 phonics skills. I am sure that Geraldine Giraffe will be visiting us a lot this term! In Maths we will be practising linking numbers, numerals and quantities as we expand and practise using our mathematical vocabulary.



### Special dates...

Friday 23rd April is 'Spring Day'! We will be celebrating the season of growing as we have fun gardening with our friends. We will also be finding out lifecycles and animal babies!

Friday 7th May is National Number Day! Let's get ready for lots of number fun!

Thursday 20th May is Outdoor Classroom Day and we will be taking all of our learning outside!!

## Reception Class News

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

There is huge excitement in Reception class - our little chicks have arrived! We will be caring for them for two weeks as they hatch from their eggs in the incubator and as they grow and explore their new little home! We will be learning about how to look after them and will be finding out about the lifecycle of a chick!



### Literacy

In literacy we are refining our use of 'finger spaces', beginning to learn to use full stops, and we are starting to use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence. As part of our chick theme, we will be writing our own 'Chick Guide - 'How to look after a chick!'



### Mathematics

This half term we are learning to automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds to 5, including subtraction facts e.g.  $5-3=2$ . Through fun games, songs, stories and practical activities, we will begin to learn our number bonds and double facts to 10!



### RE

We are learning about the Easter story. The children will be listening to the story from our class children's bible, talking about what happened, sequencing the story, acting it out and making an Easter garden for our prayer table. We will be considering the thoughts and feelings of Jesus' disciples and will be thinking of our own 'I wonder' questions linked to the Easter story. The children will also examine, learn about and paint a picture of an Easter candle. Later in the half term we will listen to the Pentecost story and make our own props to act it out!



### Other areas of learning...

Later this half term our theme is 'Busy Bodies'. We will be: exploring why our bodies are made the way they are (e.g. why our eyes are where they are); drawing around each other to make our own body maps and labelling them; looking at how we and other animals grow, spotting similarities and differences; and sequencing how we and other animals grow! We will also be thinking about how we can keep our bodies



healthy; exploring healthy and unhealthy foods; keeping fit; healthy amounts of screen time; and the importance of looking after your teeth!