



Purleigh Community Primary School

Summer Term 2026

Final term of Year R!

This term our topics are:

## How Does Your Garden Grow?



and

## Minibeasts



### How Does Your Garden Grow?

As part of our topic 'How Does Your Garden Grow?', we will be learning about plants, food, farms and animals. This topic is all about finding out where food comes from. The children will be learning to grow different plants that provide us with fruits and vegetables, as well as doing experiments to see how plants grow best. We will be thinking about what farmers do and how their hard work helps us and the wider community. We will also be going on a school trip to Jimmy's Farm to learn about animals, habitats and where different things grow.

In weeks 1 and 2, we will be focusing on how to plant seeds. We will be looking at instructions on how to plant a seed, creating story maps, and then writing our own instructions for someone else to follow. We will be undertaking a science experiment where we grow cress under different conditions, such as giving them too much or too little water, growing them in the dark, and in the fridge. The children will have plenty of opportunity to predict and discuss their ideas with their peers, as well as recording results and comparing with other groups.

During weeks 3 and 4, we will be focusing on the story Jack and the Beanstalk. The children will be retelling the story and adapting it to be about themselves. We will also be discussing healthy eating and having a balanced diet. We will look at the different food groups and start to understand why we need to have a balanced diet to stay healthy. As well as this, we will be finding out where our food comes from and the different places it is imported from around the world.

During weeks 5 and 6, we will be learning all about farms. The children will be thinking about the different crops that are grown on farms across the UK and comparing them to the crops grown around the world. We will be learning about different climates and habitats and discussing why some foods grow better in other countries. As well as this, we will be thinking about the different animals on the farm. We will be discussing animals and their babies, and thinking about which animals provide us with food, and what these foods are.

### Minibeasts

After half term we will be starting a new topic, 'Minibeasts'. This topic will teach the children all about the bugs and beasts in the garden. We will be focusing on why minibeasts are important to our

ecosystem and our planet. This topic will link back to our previous topic about plants and gardens as we explore pollination, bees, and habitats.

During weeks 1 and 2, we will be focusing on habitats and lifecycles. The children will be spending lots of time outside exploring the garden, allotment and wild garden areas. This will give the children the opportunity to experience different minibeasts habitats first hand. We will be discussing where the different minibeasts live, what they eat, and how they make their homes. We will also be exploring the lifecycle of a butterfly. This will include having our very own caterpillars in class! We will be looking after them across the half term and observing how they grow and change from tiny caterpillar eggs, into beautiful butterflies. Our focus text will be 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle.

In weeks 3 and 4, we will be learning about bees. We will be making links back to our previous topic to find out how bees help our plants and ecosystem. We will be looking at how bees work together to make honey, and exploring the different jobs they have to make the hive run smoothly. We will be creating fact files all about bees and finding out how we can protect them through wild flower gardens and creating bee friendly areas in our gardens.

Weeks 5 and 6 will focus on minibeasts around the world. We will be exploring different habitats and climates and how different minibeast are suited to living there. We will be looking at the different jobs these minibeasts do and why they are important to their specific country or environment. We will be categorizing minibeasts and looking at their different features.

### Homework:

Please see the Year R Summer Term homework document. The children should bring in pieces of homework as they complete them each week. Work will be marked on Thursdays and homework books returned each Friday.

Other than the list of homework tasks given, listening to your child read on a daily basis will be crucial to his or her progress. At school, reading books will be changed regularly to make sure your child has new reading material. Talking to your child about his or her choice of book and what is happening in the story will develop greater comprehension and literary skills, as well as practicing their phonics sounds and words. Please encourage your child to read a variety of books from home and from school and record all feedback in the reading record book.

Reading books to your child which is beyond the level of that which they can read independently will contribute towards extending his or her vocabulary and will support development of writing.

Many thanks,

Miss Cook.