

Spring Term 2020 Topic Planner

Year Group(s): EYFS – Reception and Nursery

Topic Title: Working on water

Key Questions:

1. Why does a fish have a tail?
2. Who lives in the water?
3. Why aren't boats made out of paper?
4. What floats in the water?
5. How can we travel on the water?
6. Who is that trip, trapping over my bridge?

Half-term:

1. Whitchurch or Tilstock?
2. Who ate the pancake?
3. Why do birds have feathers?
4. Are you my Mummy? (monkey puzzle)
5. What came first the chicken or the egg? (Chicken Licken assembly, the Easter story)

Experiences:

Forest school, Shropshire wildlife trust, RSPB, Attingham Park visit

Real-life purpose/outcome:

- Children will use the local area for exploring both the built and the natural environment.
- Children will have opportunities to observe things closely through a variety of means, including magnifiers and photographs.
- Children will have play maps and small world equipment for them to create their own environments.
- Adults will teach skills and knowledge in the context of practical activities, e.g. learning about the characteristics of liquids and solids by involving children in melting chocolate or cooking eggs.
- Children will have opportunities to record findings by, e.g. drawing, writing, making a model or photographing.
- Children will be provided with stories that help them to make sense of different environments.
- Children will be provided with appropriate stimuli and resources for them to create simple maps and plans, paintings, drawings and models of observations of known and imaginary landscapes.
- Children will have opportunities to design practical, attractive environments, for example, taking care of the flowerbeds or organising equipment outdoors.

Purposeful projects: Through this they will be able to:

- **Make a boat that floats**
- **Build a bridge for the 3 Billy Goats Gruff to get over the river and eat the grass**
- **Think about how they can attract more birds to the school playground.**

KUW Focus:

Children will make observations of fish and birds and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes. They will talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. Adults will encourage children to express opinions on natural and built environments and give opportunities for them to hear different points of view on the quality of the environment. Children will learn about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They will be encouraged to use words that help them to express opinions, e.g. 'busy', 'quiet' and 'pollution' and the correct terms so that, e.g. children will enjoy naming a chrysalis if the adult uses its correct name. Adults will pose carefully framed open-ended questions, such as "How can we...?" or "What would happen if...?".

Purposeful projects

- How is Tilstock different to Whitchurch? (busy, quiet, roads, shops, town, village etc)
- Who lives in the canal and on the canal?
- How many birds visit the playground? How can I look after the birds that visit Tilstock?
- Where do chicks come from and how do they change? What other babies are born in the Spring in Tilstock?

Art, Design, Expressive Arts Focus:

Children will use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They will represent my own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

We will talk to children about ways of finding out what they can do with different media, exploring and learning how sounds can be changed and what happens when they put different things together such as sand, paint and sawdust. Adults will be aware of the link between imaginative play and children's ability to handle narrative. Together we will create imaginary words to describe, for example, trolls or other strong characters in stories and poems. Children will begin to build a repertoire of songs and dances.

We will carefully support children who are less confident.

Purposeful projects:

- Act out a drama assembly for parents- The 3 Billy Goats Gruff or Chicken Licken
- The Chinese New Year –act out the animal race-the river- make a dragon
- Make a collage using different materials to represent the water and the land

Design & Technology Focus:

Children will safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. We will encourage children to speculate on the reasons why things happen or how things work.

Purposeful projects

- Make a boat that floats
- Build a bridge that is strong and sturdy
- Make a bird box or a bird feeder for the playground
- Make a nest for Easter chicks

Fiction Texts:

- Tiddler
- Billy Goats Gruff
- Monkey Puzzle

Writing Genres:

- **Fiction – Traditional Tales, Tiddler, Rainbow Fish**
- **Non-fiction – Boats, Fish and the Sea**