

In the Garden (Autumn Term)

The year begins with children learning the rules and routines in year 2. Children become familiar with the available continuous provision and learning how to access the enrichment areas. They keep the areas tidy, work together cooperatively, make decisions and take on responsibilities. We will spend time using the rich source of outside areas available to us to explore different learning opportunities. The term will include Harvest celebrations and Christmas celebrations too.

PSHE	Children will learn how their attitudes to learning can support them to succeed. Children are introduced to our “Learning Friends”, characters who display characteristics of effective learning and have a growth mind-set. We also explore how to recognise our own emotions and those of others through ‘the Colour Monster’ book. Children will also learn about how to stay healthy.
English	In English we review phonics and spellings already taught in year 1 and introduce spelling rules for year 2 as well as introducing key punctuation and grammar skills. Children will read a range of fiction books as well as being introduced to dictionaries and other non-fiction text linked to cross curricular research. They will learn how to write recounts, reports and letters.
Maths	In maths the focus is on mastering place value before moving onto other areas of mathematics. Children will be rehearsing maths skills such as measures including money and time in our continuous provision areas.
Science	In science children will explore our rich outside areas where they will learn about living things and their habitats, they will also explore different materials for their suitability for a bug hotel. Children will also sort and learn about different materials and their properties through the continuous provision in the classroom. They will be exploring the changing seasons by investigating their immediate area and will begin to learn about how plants grow and name some of the wildlife found in our outside areas. The second half term will see children learning about healthy living and lifestyles. Children will be encouraged to ask questions and come up with solutions to answers these either by research, testing or experimenting.
D&T	Children will design and make habitats for fictional characters and/or mini-beasts they will evaluate and assess existing products and those they have made as well as learning how to use appropriate tools, equipment, techniques and materials. Woodwork areas and construction areas will be accessed through continuous provision. Children will be involved in cooking activities termly where they will learn how to use a wide range of cooking techniques and learn how to prepare food safely. They will, where possible use food that has been grown in our allotment areas and outside classrooms.
Geography	In geography children will be using geographical skills and fieldwork whilst studying the geography of our school grounds. They will be able to construct simple maps and recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features.
History	Children use historical enquiry and interpretation to find out about the history of Bonfire night and Remembrance day. They begin to build up a chronological understanding of historical events.
Music	Both half terms will end with children presenting a musical performance to an audience. The first half of the term we will be celebrating Harvest and the second half of the term children will perform and sing in an end of term production. Children will learn about rhythm using different instruments including their voice.
Computing	Children are taught e-safety and begin to use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. They will have access to laptops and programmable toys through our continuous provision.
Art	Children will explore print making techniques sourcing materials from nature. They will also learn about an artist or craftsman whose work is influenced by nature. Children will talk about and give reasons for their preferences for a piece of art or craft. The continuous provision available for children in the classrooms will allow them to rehearse skills in drawing, painting and ceramics.
RE	Throughout the Autumn term the focus in RE is Special Places, looking at those that are special to the children as well as those that are connected with some of the major world faiths.

We follow the National Curriculum and teach core and foundation subjects through a topic based approach. Teachers ensure even coverage of the curriculum by tracking coverage using Target Tracker. Teachers plan to meet the needs of the children in their classes so topics may differ slightly between classes depending on children’s interests and needs.

Stories , Poems and Rhymes (Spring Term)

Children begin the second term by exploring stories, poems and rhymes. These maybe traditional tales, fantastical tales or stories about famous historical people. The emphasis of the topics will depend on children's interests. Children will revisit learning taught in the Autumn term in our continuous provision areas. We believe in developing a longitudinal curriculum which means we will be revisiting a lot of the learning that has happened previously to ensure embedded learning.

PSHE	Children's personal development continues with a focus on healthy minds. Children will revisit recognising their own and other people's emotions and will explore ways of changing negative emotions.
English	Phonics, spelling and grammar continue to be taught to support the children's growing skills in writing. Children will explore a range of rhymes and poems as well as stories and non-fiction text. Children will use texts for research purposes expanding their comprehension skills. They will use a range of different stimulus to write poems, stories, recounts and chronological reports.
Maths	Children will be working on units that include addition and subtraction, place value, fractions of shape, position and direction and time. Continuous provision will be used to consolidate and extend children's learning.
Science	The principles of scientific enquiry continue throughout the year. In this term the focus will be on plants and life cycles. Children will use their outside classrooms and allotment areas to plant seeds and bulbs and observe their growth over time and find out about the best conditions for growth. They will observe the many life cycles which take place in our school pond and outside areas and compare these to the life cycles of other animals including humans.
D&T	Children will work either collaboratively or independently on a D&T project where they will explore a number of different processes which may include mechanisms including levers, sliders, wheels and axles. They will continue to access learning through our continuous provision.
Geography	Through continuous provision children will have access to maps, atlases, globes and compasses they will monitor weather conditions and record temperatures identifying daily and seasonal weather patterns. They will learn about the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas.
History	Children will learn about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements and use some to compare aspects of life in different periods.
Music	In Music children will be learning songs for an end of term assembly and also start to use non-tuned percussion instruments for simple composition work.
Computing	Children will use a range of programs to learn about coding and will create and debug simple programs.
Art	Children will use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination to develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space. They will continue to learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.
RE	The focus for RE for the Spring Term is Special Words and Stories where children will think about any books, songs or stories that are special to them and the reasons behind their choice. They will also be looking at books and sayings that are revered by some of the major world faiths.

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Out and About (Summer Term)

The Summer term is all about exploring outside areas, we make best use of the weather and the schools rich and diverse outside areas to explore animals and their habitats, food chains and life cycles. We build topics around stories that interest children and that support them in understanding the impact they have on their environment. In the second half of the summer term we plan an education visit, in the past we have visited Harwich, Firstsite, Colchester Castle and other places of interest in the local area. The visit will form the focus of the topic for this term and is dependent on children's interests. We will also be studying a non-European country and will be looking forward to joining in with the Montgomery whole school carnival at the end of term.

PSHE	Children's personal development continues with a focus on relationships and friendships. Much of their PSHE education is fulfilled through accessing our areas of Continuous Provision where children learn to share, turn take, negotiate, collaborate, plan, evaluate and adapt. They take on responsibilities as monitors for each of the areas where they can audit the provision and request to replenish stock where needed.
English	Phonics, spelling and grammar continue to be taught to support the children's growing skills in writing. Children will write for different purposes to develop positive attitudes and stamina for writing. They will use a range of different writing formats to record experiences thoughts, ideas and findings. Children will read a range of non-fiction and fiction texts extending their comprehension skills.
Maths	Children will be working on units that include multiplication, fractions of quantity, division, place value, money and measures. Continuous provision will be used to consolidate and extend children's learning.
Science	The principles of scientific enquiry continue throughout the year in this term the focus will be materials where they will identify, group and classify a range of materials and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. They will describe how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.
D&T	Children will master their techniques in safely measuring, marking out, cutting and shape materials and components using a range of tools. They will continue to evaluate their own and others work drawing on design criteria.
Geography	Children will identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles. They will understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of Colchester and its surrounding area and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country.
History	Linked with our educational trip children will have opportunities to describe changes within living memory and aspects of change in national life. They will describe significant historical events, people and places within our own locality.
Music	In Music children will start to learn to read and write some music notation and then use this to perform simple compositions to an audience. They will also be working on performance skills in preparation for an end of year production.
Computing	Children will continue to improve their computing skills by using areas of continuous provision. They will use word processing programmes to create and edit text.
Art	Children will continue to explore drawing, painting and sculpture. They will look closely at the arts and crafts from other cultures and draw from these to create their own work. They will celebrate the work of themselves and others during our Summer Carnival.
RE	The RE focus for the term is Special Ways of Living where the children will look at some of the key characteristics of the major world faiths.