

Communication and language (Prime)

This half term we will have some very special visitors coming to live in our classroom for two weeks! We are getting living eggs, which we will look after until they hatch! We will be asking questions and sharing ideas about how we can look after the eggs. We will be describing the changes we see as the eggs hatch. We will talk about growth and the changes we see as the ducklings grow bigger each day! We will relate this to other animals and also to ourselves. In our classroom we will have a new book corner and reflection space where we can look at non-fiction books about baby animals and growth and we will also share lots of stories about ducklings and animals.

What you can do to help? Talk to your child about growing up. Encourage them to ask questions about when you were a child and when their grandparents were children.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Prime)

Together we will develop a set of rules to care for our ducklings. We will handle them with supervision and take turns to feed, water and help clean them. During circle time we will share feelings about looking after the ducklings and we will relate this to how we can look after each other in the Foundation Stage. We will then move on to explore the significance of Easter and new life and we will also discuss the changes happening during spring time. The children will talk about how they are growing and changing and they will be encouraged to listen to their peers and show an interest in each other's views and opinions.

What can you do to help? Please continue to encourage your child's independence with dressing. This is really helping your child dress quickly for PE and parachute games.



Physical Development (Prime)

We will spend some time this half term talking about diet and making healthy choices. We will compare our own diet to a duckling's diet and learn what the duckling needs to stay healthy. When handling the ducklings we will make sure that we wash our hands afterwards- ensuring good hygiene. In PE we will develop a dance drama to show the hatching experience. We will also continue to practice hand/eye co-ordination skills with throwing and catching activities. To develop our fine motor skills we will participate in a range of activities including; making ducklings and eggs in the play dough, making duckling finger paint pictures/ egg patterns, using tweezers- fill egg cups with beads/ sprinkles etc. During our last week we will make some chocolate Easter nests and add 'duckling eggs' (mini eggs!)

What you can do to help? Go for a walk with your child and look for signs of spring. What is happening to the weather? Trees? Plants?



St Thomas the Martyr Reception Spring 2- Spring/Ducklings



Expressive arts and Design (Specific)

This half term we will continue to experience a wide range of materials and mediums. We will create nests for our ducklings in different areas e.g. construction, outdoors, sand, model making. We will learn new duckling action rhymes and songs. We will make observational drawings of ducklings and engage with small world farm activities where we can create our own storylines and narratives. We will also decorate eggs for Easter. **What you can do to help?** Please send in any junk materials we can use in school.

Understanding the world (specific)

Ducklings will be our main focus this half term but we will also learn all about Spring time! We will watch video clips and learn about the changes that happen to our environment and to animals as they grow up. We will look at life cycles and compare ourselves to the ducklings- noticing the similarities/differences. We will use digital photography to capture images of the ducklings and use different computer software to record information about the ducklings.

What can you do to help? Use the iPad or computer at home to look at facts about baby animals.



Maths (Specific)



We will continue counting to and ordering numbers up to 20 (then beyond). We will recap addition and will then focus on subtraction using lots of practical objects to support this. In the middle room we will develop a farm shop role play area where we can learn about money and if time allows we will also look at days of the week and different size eggs/animals.

What can you do to help? Continue to use counting at every opportunity e.g. count the stairs as you walk up and down them, count the number of carrots on your plate, count how many letters in your name etc. Show your child the clocks around your house and talk to them about what happens at different times in the day.

Literacy (Specific)

We will do lots of writing this half term! We will write invitations to other year groups inviting them to come and see the ducklings. We will read lots of fictional stories about eggs and chickens such as The Rainy Day Duckling, Duck in the Truck, The Ugly Duckling and we will role play and retell the stories. Then we will look at factual information about ducklings and work together to make a big book called 'Duckling to Duck' using all the information we have learnt. In addition we will have lots of opportunities to write in our areas of provision such as role play, small world, construction and the writing table.

What can you do to help? Please continue to read your child's reading book with them each day. Please also support them with the phonics homework we send home each Friday.

