



ARP - Koala class

Summer Term 2024

Welcome to the Summer term! Our theme this term is "How does your garden grow?"

The children will be planting seeds, bulbs and beans, as well as looking after tomato plants and other vegetables in our garden.

In Forest School the children will be investigating different plants and trees that grow there and learning about the different parts of the plants.

They will also be finding out about the insects and animals who pass through that area—hopefully we meet some squirrels and our hedgehog family.

Useful Reminders

Sun cream: We are hoping for some more sunny weather. In school we will put sun cream on the children during sunny days. If you would prefer to send your own cream in due to sensitive skin or allergies please could you label the bottle with your child's name.

Clothes for the weather: The children play and learn outside daily, whatever the weather. Please ensure your child has a warm coat on cold days, and a sun hat on sunnier days. The children need appropriate footwear every day which allows them to run freely and safely without trips or falls, and protects their feet while playing.

Please remember to put your child's name in their school clothes as this helps us to make sure they have all their belongings at the end of the day.

Spare clothing: We have very limited spare clothing in school. Please can you send spare clothes for your child every day, or to stay in school if you prefer.

As well as occasional toilet accidents the children **love** to play outside with water, and are encouraged to explore and investigate. Water fun often results in wet clothes, so your child may regularly need a full change, including socks! We are also grateful for any donations of clothes your child has grown out of and no longer needs.

Reading: The children will be bringing a library pack home to enjoy sharing with you. Please record in the yellow book how your child and you enjoyed the stories and how your child interacted with the books, looking at the pictures, or telling parts of the story for example. Once you have shared the book and any activities, please return the pack to school and your child will bring a new pack home.

School resources: From time to time the children bring home games and resources to help them to learn at home. They also sometimes bring home school toys that they have in their pockets. We would be very grateful if you would kindly return any school resources after you have used them at home.

Here are some of the things we are planning to do this term.

Reading	We love reading in Koalas! Every day the children choose a book to share with an adult and we have a weekly book theme for Drawing Club. We read and talk about picture books and the children enjoy sharing and joining in with familiar stories. They love choosing library packs to bring home to share with you. When they become ready the children will begin to learn to recognise sounds and follow the Read, Write Inc phonics programme in school.
Writing	The children do a range of activities daily to strengthen arms, hands and finger muscles to develop fine motor control needed to write. There are many opportunities for the children to make marks, draw, colour and develop pre-writing skills. During play and planned activities we encourage the children to "write" for a purpose. Each day the children also take part in "Drawing Club" which encourages the children to use their imaginations to draw and write in response to a story. Once the children are ready, they will also learn how to form letters using rhymes from the Read, Write Inc scheme.
Maths	The environment is set up to provide lots of opportunities to develop maths skills through play. We also have planned activities to build skills such as counting, reading and writing numerals, making and combining sets of objects, finding one more than a number, recognising shapes, making patterns, measuring and comparing weights, length and capacity. This term we will be focusing on recognising and making teens numbers and beyond, counting in 2s, counting beyond 20, making patterns with numbers and shapes and rotating and turning shapes. We will also be using money in our role play shop and be measuring the plants we grow.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	We will continue to encourage the children to recognise and express their emotions and to share and take turns with others. We will also be focusing on how to stay safe in school and at home. The children will be finding out about how to stay healthy, learning about healthy food, sleep patterns, hygiene, exercise and appropriate use of technology.
Physical Development/ P.E.	The children all really enjoy active play and this helps build their gross motor skills, balance and coordination. The children play outside in the ARP garden and in the wider school grounds each day, and have opportunities to use bikes and scooters. They attend Forest School every Friday afternoon in Summer which involves lots of practice of skills such as climbing and rolling during games. Each day the children have focused time on fine motor activities to help develop hand strength, finger isolation and pincer grip.
Understanding the World.	This term we will be focusing on "How does your garden grow? The children will investigate growing plants and vegetables, as well as finding out about minibeasts and creatures they find in the garden and at Forest School. They will learn about the changing seasons and weather and begin to think about their summer holidays. They will also learn how to keep healthy and safe. The children will learn how to programme a Beebot robot toy.
Expressive Arts and Design	The children will be encouraged to be creative daily, with paint, collage, junk modelling, playdough, musical instruments and role play. Adults will play and work with children to develop their imagination through role play and small world area play. The children will be encouraged to explore paints and art materials to make pictures and their own creations. They will look at the way other artists have depicted flowers and plants. Each week the children will join in an adult led music group exploring loud, quiet, fast and slow sounds, playing along to a beat and making patterns with sound. We will be learning songs and rhymes about gardens and minibeasts this term too.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the curriculum please do not hesitate to ask. ARP staff are available to speak to before and after school, or you can send a direct message on the message section of Class Dojo.

We love to hear about things the children do out of school, however small, and we can't wait to celebrate any achievements and new skills you have noticed at home. Please send any comments or photographs via Dojo messaging or via email to liz.humby@bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk or deborah.campbell@bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk.

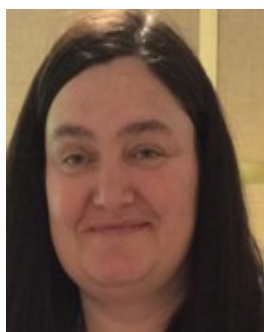
ARP Staff



**Deborah Campbell
Class Teacher
Thursday and
Friday**



**Liz Humby
Class Teacher
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday**



**Donna Anderson
SEND Teaching
Assistant Full Time**



**Amina Hussain
SEND Teaching
Assistant
Part Time**