

# Beech Class Newsletter

April 2016

## Welcome to the Summer term!

Congratulations to everyone in Beech Class for presenting our Farmed, Caught or Grown? topic so fantastically at the end of last half term through our sharing assembly. What a confident, capable class we are becoming! This half term our topic, In the Garden, will see us growing real beanstalks as well as climbing some imaginary ones! We will become garden explorers as we discover the mini-beasts that find a home in our garden and will learn about the changes from caterpillar to butterfly as we watch our very own caterpillars in a butterfly farm.

Our school topic for this half term is: In the Garden  
Our enquiry question is: How does your garden grow?

### Communication and Language and Literacy

By the end of Reception, most children should be able to read and spell words in simple sentences independently. Working towards this, we will be using Jack and the Beanstalk and other giant stories as well as real experiences from the garden to inspire our reading and writing.

### Mathematical Development

This half term we will be measuring and comparing measures through Jack's Giant. Our observations of mini-beasts will help us to learn about pattern and symmetry as well as counting and adding with numbers to 20 and understanding doubling too!

### Understanding the World and Creative and Expressive Arts

We will find out about what grows and lives in our own garden and watch closely the changes that happen over time. We will make observational drawings of the things we find and be inspired by Matisse's Snail to create our own imaginative and colourful pieces of mini-beast art. Giant chants and retelling stories through drama will also be part of our learning.

### Physical Development

As the weather improves we will be using the outdoors for more of our PE sessions. We will create versions of traditional games, for example Stuck in the Mud will become Stuck on a Web! We will be using small tools to plant, construct and investigate in the outdoors – being sure to use our knowledge of how to keep healthy and safe through wearing appropriate clothes and washing our hands afterwards.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development (inc RE)

The school Core Value we will focus on this half term is Safety. We will also try to understand the feelings and behaviours of others. We will gain confidence to share our own ideas, beginning by discussing whether all Giants are baddies? We will also learn how to care for and handle living things carefully and discuss why Miss Muffet ran from the spider?

### How to Support at Home

- \*Practise reading, phonics or spelling for 10 minutes every day.
- \*Look out for shapes and patterns in the natural environment.
- \*Explore your garden. How is it the same or different to our school garden?

### Reminders

- PE: Monday and Tuesday (indoor and outdoor kits please)
- Library session: Tuesday
- Homework packs: Changed every Friday
- Coats and welly boots in school every day please

### Class Dates

- Sharing afternoon: Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> May
- Reading Café: Mon 9<sup>th</sup> May
- Class assembly: Fri 20<sup>th</sup> May

# Work Examples – Fluency and Reasoning with Number

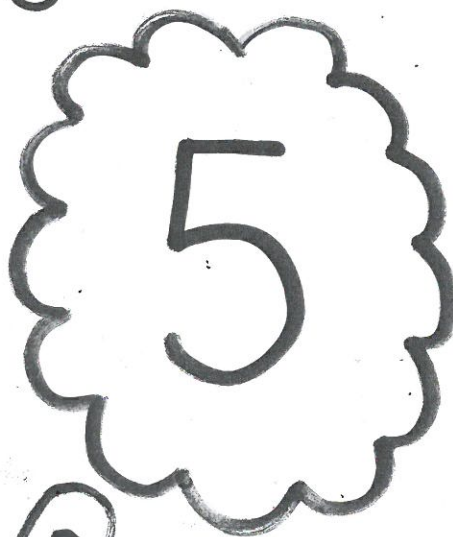
Each half term we are sharing with you some work from the class that demonstrates the new National expectations. This half term we are demonstrating some of the thinking required by children about numbers. To support at home, you could use this activity beginning with a different focus number.

"I'm 5!"  
Anya



$4 + 1 = 5$   
Chloe

$5 - 1 = 4$   
Zack



Zack  
"Double 5 is 10"

