



**Parkgate Primary School**  
**Little Owls Newsletter**  
**Summer Term 2010**



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a restful Easter break. Little Owls will now be preparing themselves for another busy term. We are starting off the Summer Term with the topic of Plants and Flowers, following the children's expressed interest in this subject.

The children have returned to school to find a Giant's castle in our classroom and they were even more surprised to see that an enormous beanstalk has grown in our class....I wonder how that got there??

Here is some information about what is happening in Little Owls this term...



**Communication, Language and Literacy**

This term we are going to focus on writing stories, initially focusing on openings and endings of traditional stories relating to plants and growth such as Jack and the Beanstalk, The Enormous Turnip etc. We will also be focusing on giving and following verbal and written instructions. A range of speaking and listening activities and writing activities will take place throughout the term, through a range of play based and role play activities.

You can support your child at home by providing them with a range of purposeful writing opportunities. For example, your child could write Birthday cards for friends and relatives, shopping lists, labels for models and even begin writing short stories at home.



**Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy**

During the spring term the children were learning to recognise and order numbers up to 20. This will still be a focus during the summer term and it would help if you could reinforce this at home with your child. This can be done through number bingo games, board games e.g. snakes and ladders, looking at numbers to 12 on a clock face. If you would like more activity ideas, please come and see me. The children will continue to develop their number skills in a range of addition and subtraction activities.

Our other main focus this term is to develop the children's problem solving skills in a range of practical situations. This will be carried out in all areas of the curriculum.



### Physical Development

The children are continuing to developing their fine motor skills in class. They will continue to participate in a range of malleable, cutting, painting, drawing activities which will link in with the other early years areas of learning.

During our PE sessions, we will begin focusing on group games, in particular developing the children's ball skills through a range of catching, throwing, kicking and batting games.



### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Our main focus within this area this half term is observing and monitoring the growth of seeds, plants and flowers. We will begin by planting one of Jack's magic beans and recording the changes to this bean in a bean diary over the next few weeks. If you carry out any similar activities at home, please take a photograph and bring it into school to add to your child's special book.



### Creative Development

We have developed a new Jack and the Beanstalk role play area in class linking in with our new topic. We are also in the process of developing our very own Garden Centre role play area outdoors, with the children's help. We are looking forward to lots of enjoyable creative sessions in these areas. The children have also expressed their interest in making puppets and puppet theatres to link in with the Jack and the Beanstalk story.



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As we are nearing the end of the school year, we are focusing more and more on developing the children's independence skills, particularly during their written tasks. Please encourage your child's independence skills during a range of activities at home, for example getting dressed and zipping up their own coats, tidying up their toys etc.



### Book Bags and Reading Diaries...

Please remember to bring your child's book bag into school on *their* reading day. If you have forgotten which day to bring in your child's book bag then please come and ask a member of staff.

Please spend a couple of minutes every day to share a story with your child. It will really benefit your child to experience a range of reading books, not just the Oxford Reading Tree books that they bring home in their book bags each week.



### Little Owls Garden Centre

We are in the process of setting up a Little Owls Garden Centre role play area in our outdoor learning environment and we would really appreciate any kind donations of items to make this role play area more purposeful. For example, we would really appreciate children's watering cans, guttering, gardening gloves, plant pots, seeds (that are safe for children's use), plants (real and artificial), garden ornaments etc.

Thank you so much for your support.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to come and see me. Thank you so much for your support, Miss Lee Boulton