

Early Years long term plan 2023- 2024

Term	Project	Information	Supporting your child at home	Possible Experiences
Autumn 1	Me and My Community 	In the Me and My Community project, the children will learn about the school community and building friendships. They will explore the school grounds and find out about all the people in school who are there to help them. They will explore how they are special and unique and how everyone's family is different. They will take part in practical activities to support them to build new friendships and explore what makes a good friend. They will also find out about people in the community who help us, including doctors, nurses, and the emergency services.	• Look at family photographs together and discuss who is part of your family and extended family. • Look at baby photographs and talk about how they have grown. • Look at any childhood photographs of parents and grandparents. • Talk about the things you like to do together and places you like to go.	Walk around the village Invite family members in to school
	Mini Project - Exploring Autumn 	In the Exploring Autumn mini project, the children will go on a woodland walk to learn about the seasonal changes that happen in autumn. They will learn about birds and animals that live in the woods and how they survive as the weather gets colder. They will take part in practical and creative activities that will support them to learn about autumn.	• Go on a walk around your local area and talk about what happens to trees and plants during autumn. Take some pictures to share at school. • Collect leaves, seeds, nuts and berries to add to an autumn collection. • Make some bird food to feed the birds as the weather gets colder.	Autumn walk around the village collecting treasures

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Autumn 2	Once Upon a Time 	In the Once Upon a Time project the children will be introduced to the wonderful world of stories. They will listen to a range of traditional tales and have the chance to act out the stories in their play. They will also listen to alternative contemporary stories to see different viewpoints from the characters. They will use the stories to think about how life has changed from when the stories were written. They will also make up their own stories and make masks, props and puppets to act out their stories.	• Read traditional stories and fairy tales to your child. • Visit your local library and choose picture books to share. • Talk about the characters in stories and whether they like or dislike them. • Talk about how the characters in stories behave and what they could do differently. •	Watch a puppet show in school
	Mini Project - Sparkle and Shine 	In the Sparkle and Shine mini project, the children will explore different celebrations that take place in autumn and winter, focusing on the significance and symbolism of light at this time of year. They will take part in a variety of creative activities and discover more about how Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah are celebrated around the world.	• Talk about special events that you celebrate at home. • Share photos of events that you celebrate. • Talk about how you prepare for special celebrations including the clothes you wear, food you prepare and gifts you give or receive.	

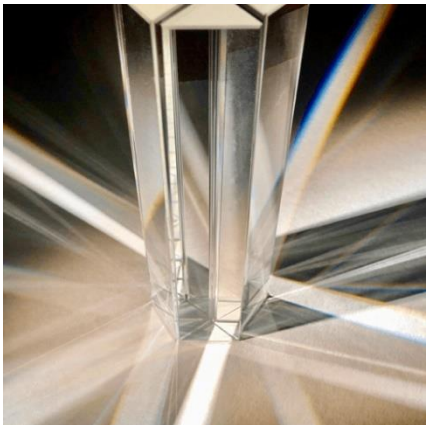
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Spring 1	Starry Night 	In the Starry Night project, the children will explore the differences between the world at night time compared with daytime, through a range of exciting and creative activities. They will find out about nocturnal animals and how they find food when it is dark. They will find out about people who work at night and the different jobs that people do when we are asleep. They will discuss bedtime routines and the importance of a good night's sleep. They will explore the night sky and find out about the Moon and stars.	• Look at the night sky and see how many stars you can see each night. • See how the Moon changes shape each night. • Go on a short walk after dark or go into the garden. Take a torch to light the way. Discuss how things look different in the dark.	
	Mini Project – Winter Wonderland 	In the Winter Wonderland mini project, the children will explore the seasonal changes that happen during winter. They will find out about the different weather associated with the winter season and explore changes that happens to water as it freezes. They will find out about what happens to plants and animals during cold weather and explore places in the world that are always cold and snowy, including the animals that live there.	• Go on a winter walk and talk about how the environment has changed since the summer months. • Put bird food out in the garden or on a window ledge and observe the birds that visit. • Leave water out in a shallow container overnight on a cold night and see if the water freezes. • If it snows, build a snowman, and take a photo of it to share with the rest of the class.	Winter walk Fake snow exploration Ice investigations

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Spring 2	Dangerous Dinosaurs 	In the Dangerous Dinosaurs project, the children will find out about prehistoric animals that lived on Earth. They will learn facts about dinosaurs and discover how big some of these giant creatures were. They will learn about the difference between carnivores and herbivores. They will also find out about the animals that lived after the dinosaurs and which modern-day animals have prehistoric relatives.	• Go on a winter walk and talk about how the environment has changed since the summer months. • Put bird food out in the garden or on a window ledge and observe the birds that visit. • Leave water out in a shallow container overnight on a cold night and see if the water freezes. • If it snows, build a snowman, and take a photo of it to share with the rest of the class.	Knebworth Dinosaur trail Gulivers world (Dino park)
	Mini Project – Puddles and Rainbows 	In the Puddles and Rainbows mini project, the children will learn about the weather associated with the season of spring. They will explore natural phenomena, including rainbows, clouds, rain and wind. They will explore colours found in the natural environment and learn how to mix primary colours to make new colours.	• Walk in your local environment and talk about the changes that have happened since winter. • Go on a colour hunt and find objects for all the colours of a rainbow. • Watch the weather forecast together and make a note of the different weather through the week. • Go outside on a rainy day and find puddles to jump in.	Puddle walk around the village

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Summer 1	Sunflowers and Sunshine 	In the Sunshine and Sunflowers project the children will explore their local environment and see how it has changed throughout the year. They will grow flowers, fruit and vegetables in the garden area. They will learn how to care for plants and animals, identifying some different types. They will take part in outdoor learning activities and find out how to stay safe in the sun.	• Grow some quick growing plants together, such as salad leaves, radishes or cress. • Plan and go on a picnic. • Go on a local walk and talk about the changes that have happened to living things throughout the year.	Sunflower farm Stevington Secret farm in Blunham
	Mini Project – Shadows and Reflections 	In the Shadows and Reflections mini project the children will learn about natural phenomena, including shadows, reflections and echoes. They will find out how shadows are formed and how they change shape and size through the day. They will explore how different materials and surfaces reflect light.	• Find objects from around the house in which you can see your reflection. • Draw around shadows outside and see how the shape and size of the shadow changes through the day. • Explore places to hear echoes, such as in tunnels, under bridges and in large open-plan rooms.	

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Summer 2	Big Wide World 	In the Big Wide World project, the children will find out about the world in which they live. They will learn about different climates and explore habitats, including their flora and fauna. They will locate the United Kingdom on a world map and compare life in the United Kingdom with life elsewhere. They will also learn about caring for their environment, both locally and beyond.	• Use Google Earth to explore where you live and look up places you would like to visit. • Talk about places around the world you have visited, or places that family members or friends live. Look at the places on a map and talk about ways to travel. • If you go on holiday, send a postcard to school to show where you went.	
	Mini Project – Splash 	In the Splash mini project, the children will explore water play and learn about the different forms and bodies of water. They will learn about freezing and melting and make ice lollies. They will investigate objects that float or sink and explore capacity.	• Talk about how you use water at home and why it is important to drink water throughout the day. • Find out about animals that live in water. • Have fun playing with water in the bath, a paddling pool or swimming pool.	Water fun at school