



Summer Topic

Growing



Hello to all our Parent/Carers and children. Hope you are all keeping safe and we really do miss the Children. This newsletter will enable you to participate in a range of activities with your children at home till when the Authorities confirm it is safe to return.

The theme for the summer term is growing. Children will be observing how seeds grow into plants, mini-beasts in their surroundings and recording their own physical growth. There are a lot of things they can do at home to learn about growing.

Resources you will need: height chart or tape measure, a plant pot or container to grow plants like empty yoghurt or any plastic cups, seeds, baby photos, family photos, smart phone or tablets, paper,

The following are suggestions you can do with your child (ren):

- Comparing baby photos and height at birth to the present
- Discuss new babies in the family (if appropriate) –can help to cope with jealousy.
- Photos of family groups to discuss stages of life
- Discuss about what they couldn't do as a baby and now—When I was a baby I now I.....
- Make own books of 'growing' stories
- Planting seeds in a pot and measure the height of the plant regularly
- Discussing what a plant needs to grow and how we grow
- Read books on growing like—The enormous Turnip, Jack and the bean stalk, the very hungry caterpillar, Alfie and the big boys to mention a few.
- Life cycle of a butterfly— you can watch an animation clip which explains this on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1S8WzwLPIM> this is very good for the young ones.
- This next link explains the life cycle of a butterfly in real life and the words used will extend the vocabulary of Children and is suitable for children and their older siblings to watch together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm-s168rW4s>.
- Baking - weighing and measuring ingredients
- Share out seeds, using simple number operations,
- Discuss shapes in nature and sort natural objects by size.

April 2020
Summer Term

Dates for your Diary

Holiday

- ☉ Easter Holidays—
Friday 6th April—
Friday 17th April
- ☉ Summer term start date—To be confirmed.

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Other information

Keeping your Child safer Online

Since the lock down a lot of us have been going online to study, learn something new, watch videos or for other things. Children use the internet too to learn new songs, nursery rhymes/stories or watch child appropriate films. It is very important that we educate our children about safety online as early as possible.

Let them know if anything happens online which makes them feel worried, scared or sad, the best thing to do is talk to you or another adult who they trust. Help your child identify trusted adults from different areas of their life such as at home or at school. Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an appropriate adult is able to supervise. The use of 'SafeSearch' is highly recommended for use with young children. Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled device in your home.

A very good website with resources that you can use with your children to discuss safety online is:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>



Reception Admissions

If you applied for a Reception place for your Child, you will receive the outcome from the Council on 16/04/20 by email or letter. Once you have accepted the offer inform Karen on 0208 310 0040 so we can arrange a smooth transition for your Child to their new School. You can email kstephens@gracenursery.co.uk.

30 hours Eligibility

All Parents who qualify for 30 hours (for child/ren who turned 3 before 31 March 2020) should have confirmed on the Childcare choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk by the **28th February** to get your 11 digit eligibility code (starts with 5000 or 11) for next term April 2020. You should have given us your eligibility code for verification to the local authority and sign a Parental Declaration and agreement not later than **30th of March 2020**. **For others who are already on the scheme, you will need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months and give us the eligibility code again for verification.** You can also contact HMRC on 0300 123 4097 if you have any problems with getting a code.

You can use the Childcare choice website to also apply for Tax - free Childcare if you don't pay fees with Childcare vouchers.



Making Playdough

All the children love playing with playdough and there is a lot they can do with it. Playdough helps to **strengthen** hand muscles, shoulder and arm. It also develops control over the fingers. Children can squash, pound, pinch, roll, cut and use their imagination to create things from play dough. It is easy to make if you cannot go to the shops to buy any

You will need 2 cups of plain flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup salt, 2 cups of warm water and Food colouring (optional) Stir all ingredients in a bowl with a wooden spoon till they come together. Knead into a lump and add a bit of flour if it is too sticky. Children can use a rolling pin, cookie cutter, jar lids, different shapes and moulds with the play dough and you can have fun as well.