



Literacy

This term, we'll be diving into a world of stories and facts all about growing and changing! From magical beanstalks to real-life tadpoles, the children will enjoy retelling favourite stories, spotting clues in pictures, and making predictions about what might happen next. These activities help build their confidence as readers and spark their curiosity.

We'll also be making links to real experiences, like planting seeds or watching caterpillars change, so the children can connect books to the world around them.

In writing, they'll have lots of chances to create simple sentences using their growing phonics skills, whether they're labelling a sunflower, drawing a story map, or writing about something amazing they've discovered.

How you can help at home:

Share books together, talk about what might happen next in the story, and encourage your child to write little notes, lists, or labels using their phonics knowledge—even if it's not perfectly spelled, it all builds confidence!

Hello and welcome to the Summer Term!

Thank you all for the warm welcome as I return from maternity leave. I'm so excited to continue the children's learning journey after the brilliant start they've had with Mrs Green.

Our theme this term is *Growing*, and you'll find some of our key learning outlined in this letter. In Early Years, we value and nurture each child's natural curiosity, so alongside our planned learning, we provide rich opportunities for children to follow their own interests and lines of enquiry through play and exploration.

I'm also pleased to introduce **Forest School Fridays**. Forest School is a child-led approach to outdoor learning that builds confidence, curiosity, and a love for nature.

As the weather warms up, please ensure your child has suitable clothing, and remember to apply sunscreen when needed.



Our Year R Team

Mrs Hughes – Class Teacher

Mrs Green – PPA Cover Teacher
(teaching all day Thursday)

Miss Ross – Teaching Assistant

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please feel free to contact us via the class email:

yearr@croston-pri.lancs.sch.uk

Maths

This term, we'll be continuing to build the children's confidence with numbers up to 20 and beyond. Through practical activities, games, and storytelling, they'll explore how numbers are made, how they can be added or taken away, and how patterns help us understand how numbers work.

We'll be using familiar resources like cubes, number tracks, and ten frames to support this learning.

The children will also be encouraged to use everyday maths language, such as *first*, *then*, and *now*, to explain their thinking and describe changes in quantity. We'll continue to focus on recognising and creating simple patterns, sequencing events, and beginning to explore the idea of place value.

How you can help at home:

Use every day routines to practise counting and comparing amounts—laying the table, sharing snacks, or tidying up are all great opportunities to explore maths through conversation and play.

Understanding the World

This half term, the children will be exploring the fascinating theme of growing and changing in the natural world and in themselves.

Through hands-on activities and storytelling, they'll learn about life cycles, seasonal changes, and what living things need to grow and thrive. They'll use tools like magnifying glasses, planting equipment, and iPads to observe changes in plants, insects, and the weather.

We'll also be reflecting on how we grow and change as people—looking at family life, special celebrations, and how these can be different or similar across cultures. The children will be encouraged to talk about their own experiences, compare the past and present, and begin to sequence simple changes over time.

How you can help at home:

Look at baby photos together and talk about how your child has grown, plant seeds or flowers and observe the changes together, and chat about your own family traditions or celebrations from when you were little.

Communication and Language

We'll be exploring a range of exciting stories and fascinating information all about how things grow and change – from tiny seeds to tall sunflowers and wiggly caterpillars to beautiful butterflies!

The children will be learning and using wonderful new words like *life cycle* and *transform*, and they'll have lots of chances to talk, ask questions, and share their ideas with friends.

We'll also be practising how to retell stories in the right order using helpful words like *first*, *next*, and *finally*, helping them become confident little storytellers!

How you can help at home:

You can support your child by talking together about how things grow, reading stories at home, and encouraging them to use words like *first*, *next*, and *finally* when telling you about their day.



Physical Development

The children will be on the move this half term, developing strength, balance, and control through a variety of active play. They'll be climbing, jumping, and navigating obstacle courses outdoors, all while learning how to move safely and confidently in different spaces.

Indoors, we'll be strengthening little hands and fingers by using tools like scissors, tweezers, and paintbrushes. These activities continue to support writing skills and help children explore their creativity as they explore texture and detail in their artwork.

How you can help at home:

Let your child get active in the garden or park, and encourage activities like drawing, threading, or using child-safe scissors to help build strength and control in their hands.

Religious Education

This half term, our RE focus will be on *Special Places*. We'll be thinking about places that are special to us—such as our homes, gardens, or cosy corners and learning about places that are special to others, including churches and other places of worship. Through stories, pictures, and thoughtful discussions, children will explore what makes a place feel special, how people show respect in these spaces, and why some places are important in different faiths. This topic helps children reflect on their own experiences and begin to appreciate the beliefs and traditions of others in a gentle, age-appropriate way.

How you can help at home:

Talk with your child about places that are special to your family and why—this could be a quiet spot in nature, a family member's home, or a place you visit to celebrate or remember.

Important Date for Summer 1

(Please continue to check the weekly newsletter for additional dates and updates)



Thursday 1st May – Year R will be going on their school trip to see 'The Baddies' at the theatre!

Expressive Arts and Design

Get ready for a burst of creativity! This term, children will be delving into a world of colour, texture, and imagination, experimenting with everything from paint and glue to natural materials and fabric.

They'll be cutting, printing, layering, and building, as they explore how different tools and textures can bring their brilliant ideas to life.

Imaginative play will be a big part of our learning too, with plenty of opportunities for storytelling, role play, and expressing feelings through movement and drama, whether they're pretending to be growing sunflowers or magical creatures in the garden!

How you can help at home:

Set up a little creative corner with scrap materials, art supplies, or even leaves and twigs from the garden—and let your child get making! Encourage them to tell you stories through drawings, role play, or acting out little scenes with their toys.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term, children will be learning all about caring—for themselves, each other, and the world around them. They'll explore big feelings like excitement, frustration, and pride, and begin to find their own ways to manage them. Through shared projects like planting and looking after living things, they'll practise taking turns, solving little problems, and building their independence and confidence in social situations.

How you can help at home:

Talk to your child about how they're feeling and why, involve them in small jobs like tidying or caring for a pet or plant, and encourage them to use words to explain their needs and solve small disagreements.