



Topaz Newsletter

February 2026 Term 4

The Scented Garden

This Term

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Our new topic is The Scented Garden, following the success of our previous topics we are hoping the children really enjoy getting stuck into this one!

During this topic there will be lots of opportunities to explore the natural world around us so we are hoping to do several visits in the local area to enrich our learning opportunities – keep your eyes out for trip letter and details when we return from our half term holiday.

In Maths we will be learning about money and will have the opportunity to practise lots of life skills and role play around this area of the curriculum. Following money we will be learning about multiplication and division.

During our Literacy lessons we will be building our writing skills with the use of apostrophes, descriptive language and plurals whilst extending our sentence writing to writing in paragraphs relating to our topic learning. We will be investigating and using reference books and also be following and creating instructions and exploring our senses alongside learning about the natural world and natural processes.

Science learning will involve answering questions such as Can seeds grow anywhere? What's on your wellies? and How does grass grow? We will of course have lots of opportunities to learn all about growing and environments - see what you can find out over the half term holiday, there are some ideas following this topic letter.

Key Vocabulary:

Leaf, plant, root, stem, shoot, soil, sunlight, nutrients, evergreen, deciduous, environment, climate, temperate, altitude, manure, taste, smell, touch, sound, hearing, balance.

Important Dates

This Friday, the 27th, we are marking St David's Day (as it falls on Sunday). Everyone is invited wear red/white/green or daffodil yellow. Laleham's World Book Day: Friday 6th March. Easter/Animal themed Wellbeing Day and end of term: Thursday 2nd April

Details to follow Topaz Class will be visiting Willowbanks our fabulous off-site Forest School in Chislet once a week on Friday mornings throughout this term. Days and permission slips will be sent through to you shortly. These visits will really add another dimension to this topic and should help bring it to life for us all!

Reminders

WE will be reading frequently with all children throughout the week, please try to read at home and children will be regarded in class for their home learning efforts. Books will be changed over every Friday so please make sure they are returned at the end of each week to enable this – if you require more books or further advice on reading and/or writing skills and development please just let me know.

We will continue to do Show and Tell each Friday when each child may bring in one small item to talk about (Please no valuables)

P.E days will continue to take place on Wednesday and on Thursday when we will continue our Rugby sessions with Mario from Thanet Wanderers..

Please do not hesitate to use the Class Dojo app to communicate with us. We also use this app during the school day to reward the children for positive contributions which can be shared with you also. Thank you all for your continued support.



Opal



Ruby



Topaz



Quartz



Sapphire



Emerald

The Scented Garden



These activities are for you to do at home with an adult. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1. Walk around your garden or local area to search for flowering plants. Draw pictures of the flowers and plants that you find using a range of drawing materials, such as wax crayons, coloured pencils or felt pens. Look carefully at the shapes, patterns and colours. Can you label any of the plants with their names?
2. Draw a sunflower and label its parts using the useful words.

Useful words

- flower
- leaf
- petal
- root
- stem

3. Watch an instructional video or find simple instructions online for making perfume. Make perfume using flowers, herbs, citrus fruits and essential oils, and give your perfume a name. After making, write instructions for making perfume and include pictures and imperative verbs.
4. Create a windowsill garden by planting seeds and bulbs in pots or a planter. Fast-growing edible plants include radish, lettuce, parsley, mint and chives. Instead, you might like flowering plants, such as tulips or nasturtiums. Keep a gardening diary in a notebook to record when and how you care for your plants and any changes that you notice as they grow. Take photographs to record their progress.



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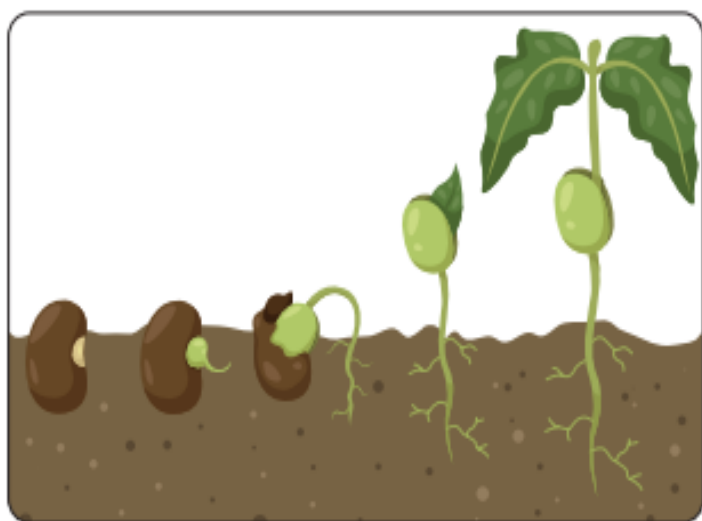


Sapphire



Emerald

5. Look at the picture of a bean plant growing from a seed. Write sentences using the useful words to describe what is happening in the picture. Explain what the seed and developing plant needs to grow.



Useful words

- leaf
- plant
- seed
- soil
- sunlight
- nutrient
- root
- shoot
- stem
- water

6. What would your dream garden look like? Would it have colourful flowers, a meadow area for wildlife, a vegetable patch, tall trees and grass? What about a play area, a place to sit or a pond? Draw a plan of your fantasy garden. Label each area of your garden and write a description beneath your plan to explain your ideas.

7. Use information books and the internet to find out about the following plants.

- Pitcher plant from Madagascar
- Barrel cactus from Mexico
- Liana from Sri Lanka
- Edelweiss from Poland

Where are they found? In which conditions do they grow? What adaptations do they have? After completing your research, write a non-chronological report about one plant that you find interesting. Include a title, headings, facts and pictures.



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8. Create leaf rubbings or press flowers and leaves. Instructions for both can be found online. Use your rubbings and pressed leaves and flowers to create a greetings card. Write a message inside and surprise someone with your card.
9. Finish your home learning by writing some sentences or explaining to an adult what you have learned about gardening, plants, what seeds and plants need to grow and how to care for them.

Useful websites

BBC Teach – Parts of a plant – Science KS1/KS2

BBC Bitesize – Healthy plant growth – KS2 Science

CBeebies – Making Perfume

BBC – How to grow your veg on a windowsill – Dig In

RHS Gardening – Grow your own fruit, vegetables & herbs

Kew Science – Plants of the World Online

Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
A Little Guide to Wild Flowers	Charlotte Voake	9781903919118
Let's Look At: Flowers and Plants of the British Isles	Lucy Beevor	9781474763868
Paddington in the Garden	Michael Bond	9780007123162
My Nana's Garden	Dawn Casey	9781787416635
Caring for Plants – Go Facts	Katy Pike	9781865090641
RHS – Let's get gardening: 30 easy gardening projects for children	DK	9780241382639
Trees, Leaves, Flowers & Seeds: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Plant Kingdom	DK	9780241339923



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Did you know?

- Herbs have been used in cooking and for their medicinal properties throughout history. Herbal seeds have been discovered in prehistoric cave dwellings and ancient Egyptian, Cleopatra, was thought to use aromatherapy as part of her beauty regime!
- The Venus flytrap is a carnivorous plant which gets its nutrients by eating small insects and spiders. Yuck!
- In the Netherlands, during the 17th century, tulip bulbs were more valuable than gold! The flower was thought to symbolise immortality, love and life.
- The scientific name for Foxgloves is *Digitalis*, chosen because of the shape of its finger-like flowers.
- Herbs come from the leaf of a plant. Spices come from other plant parts such as the root, stem, bulb, bark or seeds.
- Fresh herbs contain more antioxidants than some fruit and vegetables. Antioxidants help us stay healthy and keep our skin from looking wrinkly!
- Buttercups look innocent, but beware! The flowers can cause skin rashes in humans and are poisonous to horses, cats, dogs or cows if they eat them.
- In 17th century England, many people wore lavender around their wrists as it was thought to offer protection from the plague.
- Daisies grow on every continent in the world, except Antarctica. The name comes from the old English 'daes eage', meaning 'day's eye' because it opens its petals at dawn.
- The wild thistle is Scotland's national flower. According to legend, its prickly leaves once hurt the bare feet of a party of Viking invaders causing shrieks of pain and alerting the sleeping Scots to the invasion!
- Sunflowers are one of the fastest-growing plants, growing up to 3.5 m tall each year!



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