



# St Minver School and Nursery

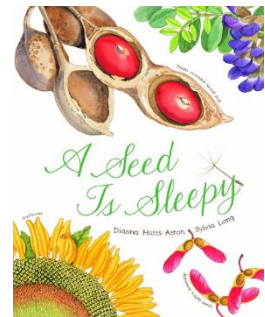
Head of School: Mrs A Warren

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

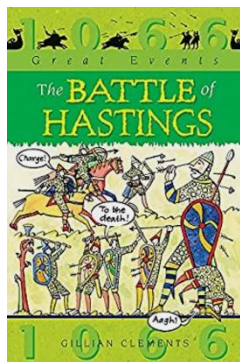
Dear Parents,

Well here we are in the children's last term of Year 2. Doesn't time fly? I hope you have had a lovely Easter break with your family and the children are well rested and raring to go!

We begin the summer term with a science week all about '**Growing Plants**'. The children have enjoyed exploring plants around our school and finding out about their different parts. This has led to some fantastic writing explaining the important job that each part does. We listened to 'A Seed is Sleepy' by Dianna Hutts Aston and set up an investigation to find out whether seeds can germinate without water or without light. The children have made some great predictions and had fun planting their own dwarf French bean seed called Stanley! We are now looking forward to observing our bean seed over time to see if our predictions were correct.



Next week we will introduce our topic for this term '**Castles and Dragons**' and begin by exploring the question 'Why were castles first built in England and what were they like?' We will spend our story time sessions listening to a range of non-fiction books about castles and begin with the chapter book 'The Battle of Hastings' by Gillian Clement. We are also hoping to visit Restormel Castle later this term to explore the remains of a Motte and Bailey Castle. Did you know that this was the first type of castle to be built in England after William the Conqueror became King of England in 1066? If you have any books at home linked to our topic we would love you to send them in so that we can share them with the class. We promise to take good care of them until the end of our topic.



**Maths** This week we have continued with our work on fractions and have been learning different strategies to help us find one half and one quarter of a shape or amount. Next week will be learning to recognise and find one third. We will also be learning to name and describe the properties of different 2d and 3d shapes. By the end of Year 2, most children should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables facts. The children have really enjoyed playing different games on this free website, where they can practise their times table facts in a game called 'hit the button'. They can also practise other key number facts we have been learning in class too this term.



[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

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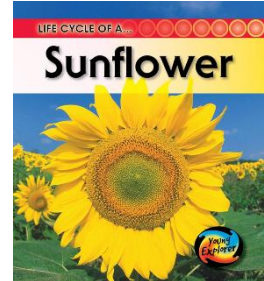


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**Reading and Writing** In English we will be comparing the difference between an explanation and an instruction and identifying the key features of an explanation text. We will use this information to help us write our own explanation text about the life cycle of a sunflower.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every day at home if they can. We welcome the positive comments you make in their reading record and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child read. It really does make such a difference to their progress!



**In other areas of the curriculum** we will begin our next computing unit all about digital photography, where we will learn how to take a good photograph, explore the effect that light has on a photo and learn how to edit our picture. We will be listening to Carmina Burana O'fortuna' by Carl Orff which is based on 24 poems from medieval literature. We will also be exploring the topic 'Music and Art'. During this pathway the children are introduced to the idea that artists often work in partnership and are often inspired by other art forms – in this case music and the visual arts. We will explore how other artists have used sound to inspire their artwork, and experiment with how we can use our mark making skills to both be influenced by, and to capture, the expression in music.



This half term in PSHE we begin our Jigsaw unit on 'Relationships'. During these lessons we will identify the different members of our family and discuss our relationship with them. We will learn how families come in all different shapes and sizes and discuss what makes

our family special. We will identify some of the things that cause conflict with our friends and discuss positive problem-solving techniques to help us resolve conflicts with our friends.

**Termly Challenge** To support our topic this term we would like the children to create their own castle or dragon to share with the class. This might be a model made out of recycled materials or it might be a painting or drawing. It would be nice to have these in just after half term, (or earlier if you would prefer). Thank you!

We look forward to a happy and enjoyable final term in Greenaway Class! As always, thank you for your continued support. It really is appreciated.

With very best wishes,

Louisa Cudmore

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