


Garden and Growing


Zen Den Medium term planning for Summer 3b 2026

Pathway: Pre-formal Engagement

Cognition, Learning and Engagement	Communication and Interaction	Personal and Social Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sing Frank Leto's Ladybug song with a puppet or figurine, making the ladybird crawl up the named body part. Can the children place it only on the correct body parts during the song? ● Matching with enlarged, laminated photos of insects cut to their shape. Can the children find the same image from two options? ● Learn to point up and down during Incy Wincy Spider. ● Explore a range of garden related texts including The Hungry Caterpillar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Play peek-a-boo, hiding your face with costume butterfly wings. ● Make minibeast noises e.g. buzz like a bee, hiss like a cockroach, chirp like a cricket. ● Request more tickles from Incy the spider puppet. ● Counting insects or petals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Showing enjoyment of, or interest in nature by spending time in various habitats e.g. long grass, near bug friendly flowering plants such as lavender. ● Planting seeds, such as cress and sunflowers, then caring for them by watering them daily
My World Around Me		My Physical World PE/Gross and Fine Motor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small world with insect figurines, plants and flowers in a tough tray. Encourage children to look through a magnifying glass to see the insects in more detail. ● Look after plants we are growing . ● Dig in the soil for worms, lie on your tummy to look for insects in the grass, check the window frames and bushes for spiders and their webs. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Move like insects - crawl like a caterpillar, scurry like an ant, flap your hands quickly for a bee and your arms gracefully for a butterfly. A colourful towel can be placed over the shoulders and held in the corners for butterfly wings. ● Roll playdough into worms, place balls of playdough size by side to make a hungry caterpillar. ● Tuff try activities that promote fine motor skills
My Independence Self-help/Life Skills/Cooking	My Creativity Music/Art/Drama	Enhanced Curriculum Trips/Visits/Experiences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Green grapes onto skewers to make a caterpillar. ● Tasting the foods from the very hungry caterpillar. ● Exploring foods such as carrots, plums and raspberries that can be grown in an English garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art sessions including printing and painting ● Bark rubbing from trees within our school grounds ● Creating a card for an important person in their life (linked to Father's Day) ● March or rock in time to the beat during the Ants Go Marching One by One song. ● See PE/Gross Motor for moving like insects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visit a local park or community garden with a wildlife area or wildflower plantings to observe insects.

Garden and Growing
Zen Den Medium term planning for Summer 3b 2026

Pathway Formal/Semi-formal Challenger

English	Maths	Personal and Social Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat a range of fruit and vegetables that can be grown in an English garden such as apples, cherries and carrots. Write sentences to describe the taste and texture including adjectives and because • Sort true and false simple statements with captions e.g. spiders have 3/8 legs, bees have spots/stripes. • Explore a range of garden related texts including Jasper's Beanstalk, Little Bee and The Tiny Seed • Write instructions on how to plant and then care for a seed as it grows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths Mastery Unit 15 Multiplication and Division • Maths Mastery Unit 16 Capacity and Volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being kind to nature; be gentle when handling minibeasts. Do not hurt them and return them to where you found them. • Small world play with figurines and natural materials to make bug homes. • Create bug hotels using recycled materials
<p style="text-align: center;">My World Around Me Science and Humanities</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">My Physical World PE/Gross and Fine Motor</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifecycle of a butterfly, ladybirds and bees • Minibeast survey: mark out an area and conduct a survey, recording numbers of all the minibeast found. • Labelling or drawing a diagram of an insect with body parts which include some scientific language • Labelling plants inc petals, stems, leaves etc • Labelling trees and using a view finder to explore and describe trees and their features 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving like minibeasts – linked to daily communication sessions where possible • Take part in Sports Day • Sensory Circuits for calming session and yoga moves linked to minibeasts
<p style="text-align: center;">My Independence Self-help/Life Skills/Cooking</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">My Creativity Music/Art/Drama</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Enhanced Curriculum Trips/Visits/Experiences</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make fruit and veg healthy bug snacks by selecting the correct pre-cut ingredients following a demonstration. • Grow cress • Taste honey and make honey toast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulating clay to create garden gnomes • Art linked to Van Gogh and Georgia O'Keefe • Explore instruments and if we can make insect sounds using them • Creating a bug hotel • Creating 3D bugs using recycled materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a local park or community garden with a wildlife area or wildflower planting to observe insects. Record the insects seen on a tally chart for use in maths.