

Unit of Learning: What are things made from?

**Overview:**

This term, our Reception pupils are diving into the fascinating world of materials!

We will be developing an understanding that different materials are used for different purposes, and that not all materials are suitable for every task. Through hands-on activities and experiments, the children will explore the cause and effect relationships between materials and their uses.

The Science and Technology area of learning will drive our inquiry, allowing the children to investigate and design using various materials. This topic encourages creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving as the children learn how to match the right material to the right job!

**Themes:** Cause and effect, design

**Languages, Literacy & Communication**

- Develop curiosity and question how things work.
- Use topic appropriate vocabulary when giving reasoning for answers.
- To take part in a debate (Which material is the best for an Umbrella?)
- Oracy- Pupils will be encouraged to talk about their own experiences.
- Using their senses to help them describe (Describing the properties of different materials)
- Using simple sentences to explain ideas.
- Listening to and following instructions
- Sharing observations through discussions.
- Retelling stories or ideas related to materials and their uses
- Identifying and using key vocabulary (e.g., material, texture, strong, weak)

**Mathematics & Numeracy**

*Skills relating to Unit of Inquiry-*

- Using ordinal numbers, counting, sorting
- Use of mathematical reasoning when making predictions. .
- Measuring- standard and non-standard units (measuring length of materials or distance travelled during investigations)
- Time- recording time- stop watches.
- Using relevant language when comparing and exploring materials against one another (e.g- shorter than, longer than, heavier than, lighter than...)
- Collecting and recording data, grouping objects into categories

**Additional skills to cover/practice**

- 3D shapes
- numbers to 20 (and beyond)
- making connections between numbers
- time
- sharing and grouping.

**Ways to help at home**

- Talk to the children about what they have been doing in Reception.
- Encourage children to play games to help develop fine motor skills.
- Read daily with your child, focusing on blending and sounding out the sounds they see- with a focus on CVC words.
- Regular number/letter formation practice at home.
- The top marks website has fun interactive Literacy and numeracy games. Some examples include:
  - Caterpillar ordering (numeracy)
  - Balloon phonics (Literacy)

**Important Dates**

5/05/25- Early May Bank Holiday  
22/05/25- Reception School Trip to Techniquet  
26/06/25 - Sports Day (am)  
21//07/25- INSET DAY