

## Dear parents and caregivers,

We are about to start a new unit in science in which we will be exploring plant growth and changes. Through a variety of hands-on activities and investigations, your child will be learning about how plants grow and change, why plants are important, and how people can help plants.

You can talk to your child at home about plants. At mealtimes, ask your child to identify the different plants that make up the meal. When walking outside, point out different kinds of plants that you see. Talk to children about the plants used to make the things they use every day, such as the cotton used to make jeans, the trees used to make wooden and paper items, plant oils in soaps and shampoos, and plants used to make dyes.

You can plan some activities with your child to focus on plants, for example:

- Grow plants from seeds either indoors or outdoors.
- Visit a local park or garden and make a list of all the plants you see.
- At the grocery store, let your child choose two or three fruits or vegetables that you would not normally try.
- Visit a garden centre and let your child take pictures of interesting plants you see.
- Let your child help you plan and cook a meal that includes three or more fruits or vegetables.
- Work with your child to make a plan to reduce your use of paper products in your household.

To ensure a wide range of experiences and make connections between this topic and your child's world, he/she may choose to bring one or more personal items to school for exploration during in-class activities. These items will be returned home once explorations are completed. To determine whether the item(s) is appropriate please contact me, your child's teacher.

Sincerely,