

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely half term holiday. It is unbelievable that it is now the summer term, the children's last half term in Foundation Stage! As ever we have lots of exciting things planned.

Our topic this half term is Mini Beasts. During this half term, the children will be learning about different types of mini beasts and their habitats.

Personal, Social and Emotional development

The children will be:

- Taking part in more focused activities, developing the children's concentration and attention in preparation for Year 1.
- Continuing to work together, sharing toys within our classroom and waiting for their turn.
- Continuing to learn the difference between right and wrong and think about how they can resolve their problems themselves before asking for support.

Communication, Language and Literacy.

The children will be:

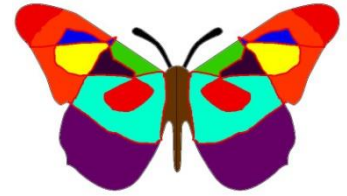
- Continuing to consolidate their sound knowledge by focusing on all the letter sounds in the alphabet and all the corresponding graphemes. Some children will be focusing on reading and writing CVCC words.
- Continuing to develop their writing skills by writing for different purposes. They will be writing labels for their observational drawings of mini beasts, writing factual sentences about mini beasts and writing their own mini beast rhymes. The children will also use repetitive language from the familiar story, 'The very hungry caterpillar' to write their own story. The children will also listen to the story, 'The very bad tempered ladybird' and will think about the character's feelings.
- Continuing the Write Dance programme, this is developing both fine and gross motor skills.
- Encouraged to interact with others, negotiating plans and activities and taking part in conversation.
- Continuing to learn key words which they will be expected to read and then be able to include within their writing.
- Continuing to listen to shared texts and have their own reading books. The children will be encouraged to show an understanding of the elements of stories such as characters, setting and the sequence of events.



Mathematics

The children will be:

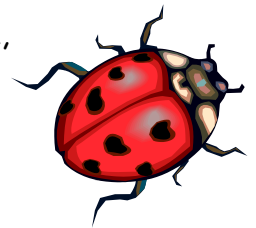
- Encouraged to count, order, write and use numbers up to 20 and beyond within their work.
- Continuing to concentrate on subtracting and adding. They will be taking part in practical activities involving addition and subtraction, prompting the correct vocabulary. By the end of the term children will hopefully know how to add and subtract using numbers 1-20.
- Thinking about units of time and what their typical morning, afternoon and night-time consist of.
- Looking at repeating patterns and gaining an awareness of symmetry.
- Continuing to use their own knowledge to solve problems.
- Share out amounts equally to their friends and cut a picture in half.



Understanding of the world

The children will be:

- Looking at and asking questions about mini beasts in their environment.
- Thinking about grouping mini beasts depending on their different features.
- Using magnifying glasses and other tools to explore our outdoor area, looking for mini beasts in our outdoor area and field.
- Have an opportunity to write their own fact book, about all the different mini beasts they have learnt about.



Expressive arts and design

The children will be:

- Using junk modelling materials to develop their own ideas independently, using different tools.
- Using their construction and sewing skills to make their own jumping spider and felt spotty ladybird.
- Having the opportunity to learn through play in various role play areas such as a garden centre, ice-cream parlour and wildlife area.
- Continuing to learn a selection of songs and use musical instruments to explore sound and how sounds can be changed.
- Using lots of different materials and paints to create mini beast pictures.



Physical development

- The children will have their weekly PE sessions with our coach, Martin. Hopefully, the children will be able to take their learning outside, if the weather allows.
- They will have the outdoor play opportunities using a variety of large and small apparatus.
- We will be developing fine motor skills through a variety of activities such as: bead threading, using finger puppets and making different mini beasts.



How you can help your child

- Continue to listen to your child read.
- Continue to help your child learn their key words and sounds.
- Encourage your child to attempt to spell their key words, using their phonological knowledge.
- Encourage your child to practise writing their name, concentrating on lower case letters and correct letter formation.
- Ensure that your child brings their book bag every day.
- Continue to update Tapestry with the home learning journal task.
- Continue to fill in 'home stars' so children can celebrate what they are doing at home.
- Useful websites: www.topmarks.co.uk, (early years section) www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies, www.phonicsplay.co.uk (phase 1,2 and 3 games)



Dates for the Diary

Friday 18th June: Superhero Day

Tuesday 6th July: Move up Morning

Thursday 22nd July: Final day of the summer term

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Wolfe