

NURSERY CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

MINIBEASTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another exciting term in Nursery!

Our new topic is "Minibeasts", where we will be exploring the fascinating world of insects, spiders and other tiny creatures. Through this topic, the children will develop their knowledge and skills across all seven areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

OUR TOPIC THEMES

- Meet the Minibeasts
- Creep and Crawl
- Hum and Buzz
- Flutter and Fly
- Weave and Spin

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Listen to a range of minibeast stories and information books.

- Follow instructions involving several steps.
- Answer "how" and "why" questions.
- Learn and use new vocabulary linked to our topic.
- Talk about our experiences during minibeast hunts and Forest Fridays.

We will also discuss:

- How to stay safe on our minibeast walks.
- Why bees are important and how they help our environment.
- The different ways we can help at home and in Nursery.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Take part in Dough Disco, Write Dance and other activities to strengthen our hands.
- Practise using scissors safely and confidently.
- Explore mark-making using a range of tools and materials.
- Develop balance, coordination and movement in PE by moving like different minibeasts.
- Build independence by dressing ourselves for Forest Friday, including putting on wellies and waterproof clothing.



PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Try new activities with confidence.
- Share ideas during circle time.
- Work together in small groups.
- Take turns and share resources.
- Learn how to care for living things and treat minibeasts with kindness and respect.

During our minibeast hunt, children will collect natural materials to create beautiful nature bracelets, which will provide opportunities for discussion and reflection back in Nursery.

We will also continue reinforcing our Nursery Golden Rules to encourage positive behaviour and respectful relationships.



LITERACY

- Enjoy favourite stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*.
- Play 'Minibeast I Spy' games to develop early phonics skills.
- Learn new descriptive vocabulary.
- Create our own minibeast stories.
- Practise recognising initial sounds.
- Make marks and attempt early writing, including writing minibeast names and tracing words.



MATHEMATICS

- Count and sort different minibeasts.
- Compare quantities and recognise one more and one less.
- Count the fruit in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- Measure worms and compare length and height.
- Explore repeating patterns by making colourful caterpillars.
- Count legs and wings on different minibeasts.
- Create minibeasts using a variety of 2D shapes.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Go on minibeast hunts in the outdoor classroom and Arboretum.
- Observe seasonal changes during Forest Fridays.
- Learn about the life cycle of a butterfly.
- Discover why minibeasts are important to our environment.
- Explore the minibeast role-play area and small world activities.
- Use finds to scan QR codes and access age-appropriate learning resources.
- Investigate different materials, textures and natural objects.
- Make honey sandwiches while discussing healthy eating, likes and dislikes.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Make spider finger puppets and model snails.
- Create colourful minibeast collages.
- Paint symmetrical butterflies while exploring colour mixing.
- Build a giant spider's web.
- Enjoy singing, dancing and moving to minibeast songs.
- Use imaginative play in our Minibeast Café and role-play area.



HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- Looking for minibeasts in your garden or local park.
- Practising counting, sorting and describing minibeasts.
- Reading stories about insects and nature together.
- Encouraging your child to draw, paint or make their favourite minibeast.
- Talking about what you find on walks.



Thank you for your continued support.
We are looking forward to a fantastic term full of exciting discoveries, outdoor adventures and lots of fun learning together!



