



Curriculum Newsletter



Spring 1: Nursery



Communication & Language

In our communication and language skills, we will introduce our 'story telling' baskets. Through this activity we intend to focus on developing the children's vocabulary, introducing them to new words and explaining the meaning of these new words. We will start to use these everyday words when communicating with our friends during independent provision time. We will continue to develop the children's listening skills as well as building on their memory skills in preparation for RWI sessions. We will also work in talking groups on a range of fun activities. Some children will be working on communicating in a simple sentence, while others will be using connectives to link their thoughts together.

Mathematical Development

Children will continue to work on reciting and recognising numbers to 5, some children will be focusing on numbers to 10. We will be working on touching counting accurately and identifying how many objects there are in total, for example identifying the number of spots a ladybird has. Children will practise representing their total number on their fingers and represent numbers in pictures e.g. when drawing a spider does the child draw 8 legs? Through a range of practical activities and discussion, we will develop our language related to shape and size. We will explore and begin to compare the different length and sizes of worms.

Key Vocabulary

careful counting, total, short, long, shorter, longer, longest, shortest

PSED

This half term we will continue to develop our turn taking and sharing skills. We will be reading the story 'Sharing a Shell' to help develop children's understanding of sharing and why it is important to share. We will also be providing the children with activities that require them to turn-take or share resources. We will be sharing our feelings towards different minibeasts such as which minibeasts we like best and why. We will also be discussing which minibeasts we are afraid of and ways in which we could overcome this.

Key Vocabulary

share, take turns, wait, think, feel, fear, overcome, scared, like, dislike.

Literacy

During our daily story time, children will listen to stories with increased attention and recall key events. This half term we have chosen several minibeast books for the children to explore, some of these books were selected by the children. The children will develop their reading skills by describing the main story events, characters and settings. We will continue to encourage children to access books independently in our winter reading tent, ensuring that they are holding books the correct way and turning the pages carefully. In phonics, we will be focusing on rhyme and alliteration and many of our story times will include familiar rhyming books. Our younger children will be focusing on tuning into the sounds within the environment and recognising and naming familiar sounds.

Knowledge & Understanding of the World

In our investigation area we will continue to focus on the change of seasons and the weather in Winter time. We will talk about the weather in the Arctic and Antarctic. We will show children where they are on a globe.

We will work on identifying key characteristics of different minibeasts using descriptive language. The children will have many opportunities to classify, sort and organise minibeasts in different ways. We will discuss the importance of caring for living things within our natural environment.

Key Vocabulary

Winter, cold, snow, coat, gloves, hat, Arctic, Antarctic, igloo, globe, wiggly, smooth, rough, curly, soft

Enrichment

We will be purchasing a 'Caterpillars to Butterflies Growing Kit' to extend the learning from 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story. Children will be able to observe closely and watch the changes the caterpillars go through before becoming butterflies.



Important Dates

Half Term Holidays: Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February 2022

Topic Name

Adults: Miss Ramzan, Mrs Tennant, Mrs Mortimer & Mrs Coltherd

Creative Curriculum

This half term our topic is 'Minibeasts'. We will be looking at different minibeasts and this will be enhanced through our role-play activities within the provision areas so children can act out different experiences. We will be reading various texts linked to the topic. We will be having discussions about how we can care for different minibeasts as well as using our mathematical skills to work out the children's favourite minibeast. The children will have the opportunity to create their own 3D minibeasts.

Focus Texts

Focus Books this half term:

- 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle
- 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson
- 'Aaaarrgghh, Spider!' by Lydia Monks
- 'Snail Trail' by Ruth Brown
- 'The Teeny Weeny Tadpole' by Sheridan Cain
- 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson

We will also read information books about Minibeasts

Useful Websites

- www.50thingstodo.org
- www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.oxfordowl.co.uk
- www.topmarks.co.uk

Physical Development

This half term we will continue to develop our Health and Self-care; encouraging good practice of washing and drying hands after visiting the toilet. To develop their fine motor skills, children will take part in daily finger gym activities such as threading, using tweezers to pick up small items, pegs and pegboards, dough disco, scissor skills and many more. In terms of the children's gross motor skills, we will be continuing to work on developing our core strength through a range of gymnastic activities. In writing area, we will be modelling how to hold a pencil correctly and begin to show control when making marks on paper. The older children will be working on holding a pencil using a tripod grip.

Key Learning This Half Term

- We will be developing the children's listening and attention skills through daily rhyming and alliteration so that children are beginning to identify rhyming words with confidence.
- Children will learn lots of fun and exciting facts about different minibeasts. We will be using non-fiction books and the internet to help us discover some of these facts. The children will develop a greater sense of responsibility of how they can look after living things such as minibeasts.
- Some children will be developing their pencil control so they can hold a pencil using a tripod grip, while others will be developing good pencil control.

Reminders

- **Please ensure that all clothes are labelled**
- **Please remember to return book bags every Wednesday so that your child can be allocated a new reading book.**
- **Be sure to access Tapestry regularly to see what your child has been learning. You can also use Tapestry to share any amazing achievements your child has accomplished at home!**

How you can support at home

- Go on a minibeast hunt with your child – talk about the different minibeasts you have found, you may discuss the appearance, number of legs, whether it can fly or not etc.
- Talk about the marks they are making, together you may draw all the minibeasts you have found. This could be presented in the form of a book all about minibeasts.
- Encourage your child to share things at home by playing lots of turn-taking games.
- Please support us in developing your child's independence by for example, encouraging them to have a go at putting on their own coats, clothes and shoes.