

Early Years Newsletter Summer 1 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term we will be exploring the question 'What's at the bottom of the garden?' The children will learn about classifying minibeasts, exploring habitats, facts about minibeasts and even what a minibeast might be in Australia with Bluey!

The role play this term will be a pet shop. If you have any old animal cages, bowls, stuffed animal toys, leads, pet food etc that you can donate it would be much appreciated. The children will continue to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books linked to the topic.

Although the weather will be getting warmer (we hope!) it is still vital the children come to school correctly dressed. Please make sure that your child has got wellies and a puddle suit so they can enjoy exploring all the messy activities on offer. In the Early years, girls are allowed to wear the dark navy blue gingham summer dresses in the summer term.

Below is a breakdown of the questions that we will be asking to support our learning:

Week 1	What is a minibeast?	This week we look at classification of minibeasts and their habitats.
Week 2	Are worms really super?	We will read 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson but also explore non-fiction facts to discover worms true super powers.
Week 3	Do all frogs have legs?	Children will love finding out facts about frogs. We will also be walking to the church for our RE lesson about special places. A letter will be sent about this.
Week 4	What is the life cycle of a butterfly?	We will be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, not only by looking at our new class arrival (Sshhhh we don't want to scare them!) but also through drama as we race to make cocoons.
Week 5	Are all ladybirds the same?	This is a slightly shorter week due to bank holiday. However, we will enjoy reading 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird' by Eric Carle and hunting for bugs outside.
Week 6	What's at the bottom of Bluey's garden?	As we travel across the world to Australia with Bluey to find out what minibeasts they have in their garden. We will be looking at maps and making comparisons and differences between where we live and Australia.
Week 7	Reflection week	This week we are aiming to finish our topic with a visit to The Worseley Centre. Information about this will follow once it is confirmed.

Throughout this topic, we will explore the following KKP'S (Key Knowledge Points):

Nursery -

- To name 5 minibeasts.
- To know how minibeasts help us.
- To know where minibeasts live.

Reception –

- To name 3 ways that worms are superheroes.
- To know what helps plants to grow.
- To know what an insect is.
- To name the parts of an insects body.

KKP'S are the elements of the curriculum that children should remember and be able to recall.

Our PSHE topic for the Early Years children is all called 'Relationships' and helps children to explore what a good friend looks like, how to resolve conflict and how to make people feel included.

In RE this term the children are looking at special places and what makes them special. We will be walking to church on Wednesday 24th April. A separate letter will be sent with the information on. Parents are welcome to join us for the visit.

PE is on a Wednesday morning. Please ensure a full kit is in school for the whole term. This consists of your child's team t-shirt, black shorts and black PE pumps. Please remove any earrings or put plasters on before school. Please make sure everything is labelled! As sports day is fast approaching and you are unsure what colour team your child is in, please contact me and I will let you know so you can buy the correct colour top.

We shall continue to develop our great start in phonics with Read, Write, Inc. Your support with this has been greatly appreciated. Just a reminder that your reading book and library books are changed on a Friday morning. Please ensure these are in school with your diaries completed. Please sign the diary every time you read at home. The expectation for Reception is 3 times a week. For those of you who wish to support your child's development further, please do access Oxford owl online, Numbots, Spellshed and of course the terms additional homework activities.

Please remember that these are all just additional bits for those of you who have asked for more. Priority is the reading books and diary being signed every week, the rest is there if you want it.

For those of you who take part in the lottery, it is because of you that the children have had over £400 worth of equipment or the outdoor area to encourage maths and literacy development. Thank you and please keep playing it really does help.

Many thanks for your support this term. The children have absorbed so much historical knowledge about pirates and life at sea.

We continue to have an open door policy and value the relationships we have built with you.

The Early Years Team

