

Literacy

Our Talk for Writing sessions will be built around the story *The Woolly Bear Caterpillar* by Julia Donaldson. We will be creating our own story maps, ordering and retelling the story, writing character descriptions, expanding our vocabulary and eventually making our own pages to add to the book. In Reception we will be focussing in particular on building complete sentences, remembering where full stops belong, as well as using our phonics to sound out our spellings.

Expressive Arts and Design

We'll be doing lots of minibeast themed art this term, developing our ability to mix and select colours. We will also be making collages from a wide range of materials, exploring (and talking about) the look and feel that different combinations produce. Finally, we will create and perform rhymes linked to our learning.

Physical Development

In our weekly sessions with Mr Butler we will continue to work on spatial awareness and ball skills, learning to travel with control and throw and catch balls of different sizes. We will then use these skills to begin to play simple games, involving attack and defence. As it gets a bit warmer, we will also be trying to get outside a bit more, exploring athletics, developing our running and playing lots of parachute games.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will spend lots of time talking and thinking about the things that make us special, recognising that we are all unique, amazing individuals! We will talk about the way we show we care about others. Throughout the term we will be developing our independence and making sure we can all confidently ask for help.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



MINIBEASTS!

EARLY YEARS - SUMMER 2024

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be exploring number patterns and learning key number facts. Nursery will be focusing on securing their counting and developing the skill of subitising (instantly recognising how many there are in a small group without needing to count, for example with the spots on dice). Reception, meanwhile, will be developing their understanding of finding totals, using part-part-whole models to find the missing part and turning these calculations into written addition and subtraction facts. We will also be investigating shapes, recognising and naming common 2d and 3d shapes and then using this language throughout the day.

Understanding the world

We're focussing on living things this term, and in particular on minibeads - all the small creatures around us, like insects, worms, centipedes, spiders and snails. We'll have lots of opportunities to 'meet' these creatures in class, observing the life cycles of butterflies and frogs first hand, and will look carefully at their similarities and differences. We will investigate the things they eat, the places they live and the times when they are most active, and will put our 'scientist' hats on to work out how we could group our tiny new friends using all of this information. These experiences will also help us to realise how fragile living things can be, and how important it is to be gentle when handling them.

Communication and Language

This term we will continue to expand our vocabulary, learning the names of the creatures we discover and collecting language to describe them. We will start to think about differences between words with similar meaning - for example, deciding if a creature is small, tiny or microscopic, or if its body is yellow, orange or fiery. Nursery will also be playing lots of listening games involving rhyme and alliteration, supporting our growing phonics knowledge, while Reception will be working on expanding our conversation so that we can discuss ideas and explain how we feel in different situations.

Literacy

- Constant practice of reading and phonics is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about what they've read.
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Have a go at some of the fab art activities on the Tate Kids site: www.tate.org.uk/kids/make
- Act out stories together and encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you.

Physical Development

- Build an obstacle course in the park or garden together, running (carefully) around benches or chairs, crawling under blankets and clambering through cardboard boxes.
- Play games together that involve kicking, throwing and catching balls.
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own and brush their teeth twice a day.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Support your child in developing imagination and storytelling, building things using big cardboard boxes and pieces of fabric, or dressing up and pretending to be nurses, doctors or parents.
- Talk to your child about how to stay safe when crossing the road or playing in the park.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



MINIBEASTS!

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Mathematics

- We've been practicing our counting a lot in class, so building on this at home would be a huge help - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Play board games with numbered squares together, and practice saying the names of the squares you land on together. Simple card games give lots of opportunities for practicing number names, too.
- Go on a shape hunt at home or while you're out and about - how many different shapes can you name?

Understanding the world

- Hunt for minibeasts in your local area - there will be hundreds in the garden, especially in bushes, under rocks, between paving stones and beneath plant pots. Which creatures can you name? How many legs do they have? What do they seem to be eating? Why do you think they live in these places? There are loads of questions to ask, and it's fine to not know all the answers (understanding that you don't know is definitely a Learning Superhero skill!)
- Continue looking for (and talking about) changes in our environment linked to the seasons. Can you see signs that plants and animals are growing more now that Spring has arrived?

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Make up silly sentences together where every word has to start with the same letter or the words all rhyme.
- When you're sharing stories with your child, ask them what they think will happen next or how the story might end.