**Our News**

We have had a very busy few weeks in EYFS! The children loved completing their sponsored circuits with the visiting athlete, Stuart Robinson. A big thank you for all of the sponsor money that you managed to raise.

We were lucky to be able to enhance our learning about the changing seasons with some lambs visiting us from Mrs Richardson’s family farm. We would have loved to have kept them!

Last week was Deaf Awareness Week so we have been sharing our BSL skills with the rest of the school. We have watched a story, signed by Rose Ayling-Ellis on CBeebies and discussed what it must be like for the bear in the story that struggled to understand the world around him. A big ‘well done’ to Amiee, who helped Mrs Catterall in the Star of the Week assembly, by signing good afternoon to everyone, including our families that were invited.

We enjoyed a lovely morning out at The Plant Place garden centre this week, learning all about the wide variety of different plants there are, completing a quiz and making our own wildflower ‘bee bombs’ to bring home or plant in school. We even helped The Plant Place to plant their new wild flower meadow! You may want to return later in the summer to see how it has grown and changed! The children’s behaviour was exemplary. A big thank you to all of the volunteers that came with us.

**STARS OF THE WEEK**

**Jake, Ruby K and Vinnie from Yellow Ducklings**

**Rodney and Jenson from Brown Ducklings**

**Our Learning**

We are all now so confident at re-telling and acting out the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and love using the different phases from the story. We have been reading a story called The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle and talking about the different conditions that a seed needs to grow successfully. We have learned about the life cycle of a bean and now have some new vocabulary such as root, shoot, sprout and germinate. Our own beans have been planted in different conditions and we will be watching carefully over the next few weeks for any signs of growth and change. Ask the children to tell you about our growing beans investigation!

This week we have been finding out more about the creatures that might live in our garden through our class story, ’If only…’ by Neil Griffiths. Ask the children to tell you all about it.

**Little Chicks** have been…

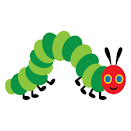
* Finding objects and listening to words that begin with the letters u and v.
* Ordering objects such as flowers by their size/height and identifying 2D shapes, using them to make minibeasts.
* Creating and drawing flowers, labelling the different parts.
* Mark making by printing and dabbing to create butterflies.

**Ducklings** have been…

* Writing our own tiny seed stories and a recount of our trip to the garden centre.
* In phonics, we have been finding out reading and writing words beginning with 2 consonants such as twin and crab.
* In mathematics, we have been exploring selecting, rotating and manipulating shapes to make other shapes and develop our spatial awareness. We have also been using counting on and adding to solve problems.
* Selecting our own tools and materials to build and create flowers and minibeasts.
* Programming our Beebot robot to move around a garden.
* Practising our running, skipping and balancing for sports’ day.

**Our Learning – What next?**

We had a special delivery at school today, of some tiny caterpillars. We will look after them for the next few weeks and watch how they grow and change. We will be reading the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and ordering the different stages of a butterfly’s life cycle.



In the final week of the half-term, we will be learning about how we look after ourselves as part of healthy living week. We will also be learning more about Queen Elizabeth II as part of the platinum jubilee celebrations.

**Reminders**

**Blogs**

We invite you to look at the blogs on the school website with your child and comments are very welcome.

**Jubilee Dressing-up**

On Friday 27th May we are celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and will be having a special picnic lunch. Each class will be learning a song and performing a dance, from one of the decades, to the rest of the school. The Ducklings and Little Chicks are going to be learning a song from the 1980s!! Your child is very welcome to dress up as someone from this era on this day. It can be something that you have made at home or just some bright accessories!

**Names in Uniform**

Please can you ensure that all items of uniform are named. It is the time of year when the children start to take their jumpers and cardigans off and we want to ensure that all belongings are returned home to you at the end of the day! Quite a lot of names have washed off belongings and it is very difficult for the children to identify their things. Please can you also check the jumpers and cardigans that your child has brought home to make sure that they are the correct ones?

**Sunhats and sun cream**

Children might need to start bringing in sunhats and sun cream as the weather continues to warm up. It is a good idea for sun cream to be applied before coming to school and then to show your child how to apply small amounts of sun cream themselves, should they need to top up later in the day. Please put your child’s name on their sun cream.

**Stories**

Have you any stories about minibeasts? Please send them in for us to share and we promise to look after them.

**Needed**

Junk materials for creating models with, such as egg boxes, cardboard tubes, small boxes, yogurt pots and bottle tops.

Does anyone have a spare clothes rail that they no longer need? We are in need of a new one for our puddle suits!

**History Photographs**

As part of our history learning we will be talking about family and family events from the past. Please could you send in a photograph of a family member and an event from their past that is important to remember. This could be something like a family holiday or a wedding or family party. We will look after the photographs and return them to you when we have finished with them.

**How can you help at home?**

**Little Chicks**

Help your child to get ready for starting school. You can help by ensuring they can…

* Dress and undress themselves
* Look after their own belongings
* Be independent in their own personal hygiene – going to the toilet, wiping their nose

At home…

* Look at ordering objects such as pans, plates, toys and books, etc, according to their size.
* Talk about what is in your garden at home.

**Ducklings**

**Talk for Mathematics**

**Numbers beyond 10**

Practise counting out loud and see how far you can count to correctly!

Play ‘I count, you count!’ with a grown up. Parent –“16” Child – “17” and so on.

Look for 2D shapes when out and about. Can you name them? Look at shapes that you can see within shapes.

Look for examples of shapes that tessellate in real life, such as tiles, brickwork, etc.

Can you cut a piece pf paper into different shapes and put it back together?

Use your toys or household objects to create addition problems or to say addition number stories – 4 cakes on a plate but 7 people are coming to the party. How many more will be needed?

Download the new White Rose - 1 minute maths games app to play and practise basic number skills.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/1-minute-maths>

[www.ictgames.com/numeracy](http://www.ictgames.com/numeracy)

www.topmarks.co.uk

**Talk for Reading and Writing**

**Reading**

As well as reading regularly (every night if possible!) please practise the new tricky words that will be sent home, using the games and the bookmarks. You can also look out for the tricky words in your reading and library books.

Your child can access additional reading books at home for homework.

The login details are as follows:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

**The login details are as follows:   Username - cgducklings   Password - ducklings21**

Please select books from the same colour band of books that your child is currently bringing home.

Practise writing the tricky words with chalk outside. Paint over them with water.

Make a tricky word treasure hunt around the house using post-it notes with tricky words written on. Can they find them and say them?

Write some simple sentences with the new tricky words in.

Use magnetic letters to spell words beginning with two consonants or write them with chalk outside – trip, pram, crab, spot, flat, etc. Say and write captions or sentences with these words in.

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[www.ictgames.com/literacy](http://www.ictgames.com/literacy)

[www.phonicsbloom.co.uk](http://www.phonicsbloom.co.uk)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

**Talk for topic**

Go to your local library and find a fiction or non-fiction book about minibeasts. Share together.

Research some interesting facts about caterpillars or butterflies. Bring them in to share with the class.

Draw and write what you would eat if you were the very hungry caterpillar.

Perform The Tiny Caterpillar song to your family.

Find out about the Queen and her life history so far. Send some of this in to share with the class as part of our jubilee celebrations.

**Dates for your diary:**

Monday 23rd May ~ Sports’ Day. Whole school from 13:30, weather dependent.

Wednesday 18th May ~ New Induction Evening to welcome our new parents to school for September.

Tuesday 24th May ~ Stay and Play for our new Ducklings. Families invited to tea and cake in The Wing. 15:40-16:30.

Week beginning the 23rd May ~ Healthy Living Week

Friday the 27th May ~ Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – 1980s dressing up day

Break up at 15:30 for half term holiday

Any questions please don’t hesitate to ring, email or come and see us.

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