

# literacy

Children's literature is at the heart of all learning (see separate MTP). Alongside this, we enrich the children's learning experience through further texts linked to their topic theme.

- Explore the story *What the Ladybird Heard* by Julia Donaldson. Encourage children to join in with the animal noises, make predictions with what will happen in the story and discuss the characters and events that have taken place.
- Children to follow a map of the ladybirds plan.
- Children to draw animals that are on the farm.
- Learn about the different animals.
- Explore the story *Aaaargh Spider!* by Ruth Brown.
- Re-tell the story in their own words. Children to use actions to help them.
- Share additional topical stories for the children's enjoyment such as *Tad*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*.
- Listen to starting sounds in words from the story.
- Children will listen to words the teacher sounds out in a robot voice, can they then blend these.

# Mathematics

We follow the White Rose Scheme of Learning for maths, which offers clear progression to children's learning (see separate MTP). Alongside this, we enrich the children's learning experience through further mathematical learning experiences linked to the topic theme.

- Provide minibeast resources for the children to group in amounts of 3.
- Count the ladybird cards and show different ways to represent these numbers.
- Hide a variety of the Minibeast safari cards in the outside area. Tell the children how many you have hidden and challenge them to find them all.
- Make colourful caterpillars of different lengths with the children using cubes, counters or beads. Which one is the longest, which one is the shortest?
- Create a giant number track with the children and get them to jump forwards and backwards.
- Children count objects and collect natural resources looking at numbers to 5.

## Wren Class

# SUMMER TWO

Creep, Crawl and Wriggle



# PSED

- Offer the children opportunities to care for nature including doing tasks such as watering the plants, chopping, peeling and putting out fruit to feed minibeasts with vegetable peelings and monitoring the minibeast hotel.
- Watch video footage of real ants working together. Ask the children to work together as a team of ants to collect and carry objects or move a structure piece by piece along the line to a new location.
- In our mud kitchen add enhancements of sticks, pebbles, mud, sand, bark, pine cones, etc.

# physical development

- Children will engage with a range of varied 'Finger Gym' activities to encourage fine motor, these will include skills linked to dressing and basic self-care. Further, there will be a high importance placed upon self-hygiene and handwashing throughout the school day.
- Can the children act like minibeasts? Provide a range of activity cards in the outdoor area for children to follow, such as: Can you flutter like a butterfly? Can you zoom like a fly?

Children will have lots of opportunity to focus on gross and fine motor skills. Children to have opportunity to balance and think carefully gaining spatial awareness.

Children will crawl, run, bend and stretch and use these to overcome and access different obstacles. Children are going to participate in team games, eventually holding their own Sports Day.

# Communication and Language

- Read the story *What the Ladybird Heard* by Julia Donaldson. After reading, ask the children 'Did you hear any words that rhyme?' Allow time for them to share their ideas and examples and then read the book through again, encouraging them to join in. Display the Rhyming word cards from the story for the children to match and read. For example 'hen, pen' and 'duck, cluck'.
- Read and sing a variety of action poems and songs on the theme of minibeasts. Rhymes might include, *Incy Wincy Spider*, *There's a Worm at the Bottom of my Garden* and *Ladybird Ladybird*. Encourage the children to join in with the actions, predict the next lines and learn the poems by heart.
- Set up a 'drainpipe' using guttering or a cardboard tube and provide cars and animals, can they roll these down the drain pipes? How far can they go?.
- Put Minibeast picture cards in envelopes - one per envelope. Working in a small group, give each child an envelope and ask them to open it without showing other children which minibeast they have. Taking it in turns, ask each child to describe their minibeast without using its name and see if others can guess it.

# Expressive Arts & Design

- Provide baskets of natural materials such as logs, bark, pine cones, hay, sticks, leaves, stones and a range of man-made items, such as bricks with holes in, wooden boxes or pallets, flower pots, guttering, drinking straws, netting and string. Display a sign that says 'Welcome to The Minibeast Hotel!'
- Provide a snail shell template and chalk pastels Children to create their own snail shell templates.
- Provide butterfly pictures, children to paint their own pattern butterfly wings.
- Take the children outside listening to sounds of nature.
- Make their own shakers and wind chimes.

# Understanding the World

As part of this area of learning, we incorporate key festivities and significant occasions as they are met throughout the year.

- Visit a local park, woodland or garden to carry out a minibeast safari. Encourage the children to search for minibeasts that wriggle, crawl or fly, looking under logs, leaves, stones and in leaf litter.
- Observe changes in their environment during this season.
- Make a mini wormery in a plastic or glass container and display it indoors or outdoors. Instructions can be found online.
- Offer a range of wild or garden flowers and a variety of magnifiers for close observation.
- Set up a butterfly farm by buying a commercial butterfly kit.
- Ask the question 'Why do ladybirds have spots?' Look at pictures of other brightly-coloured minibeasts, such as butterflies, dragonflies, bees and beetles. Ask 'how' and 'why' questions to stimulate children's scientific thinking, such as 'Why are these beetles so brightly coloured?' and 'How does being green help these stick insects?'
- Find out where minibeasts live and create their own bug hotels/nests outside.
- Talk about differences in materials, can they describe it?