



'Spurring each other on with love'

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Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

Monday 20th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we are starting our new topic Minibeasts and their habitats. Advance notice that to end our topic we will be having a 'minibeast' day, on Friday 22nd May. The children can come in dressed as a minibeast, bug hunter, wearing a minibeast mask and/or colourful clothes. More details will follow nearer the time.

Literacy:

- We are looking at different minibeasts and describing them.
- Learning about the Life Cycle of a caterpillar.
- Writing questions that we would like to find out about caterpillars.
- Reading The Big Book of Bugs by Yuval Zommer.

Phonics:

- The children will be put into their new phonics groups.
- Mrs Bonds group will be going back over ay, ee and igh. They will be focusing on reading 4 and 5 letter words with these sounds in and speedily reading familiar 3 and 4 letter words.
- Mrs O'Toole's group will be learning ay and ee.
- Mrs Greenslade's group will be recapping sh and qu. They will be focusing on reading and writing words with these sounds in.
- Mrs Vanstone and Miss Marsh's group will be learning sh and qu.
- Miss Houghton's group will be focusing on reading and writing three letter words.
- Reading books, matched to the sounds being taught in phonics, will continue to be handed out and changed on a Friday. If your child brings home a black and white paper book, this is a copy of the book they have been reading in phonics, therefore a familiar text. Please encourage them to read these fluently, they don't need to sound out every word.
- Please use the plastic wallets that were sent home in September, to protect the books.



Maths:

This week, we will be focusing on numbers above 10.

- Using tens' frames to represent these numbers eg: 14 as $10 + 4$ ie: 1 full 10 frame and 4 more on the next 10 frame.
- Representing numbers above 10 using numicon.
- Ordering number tiles from 10-20.
- Playing bingo.

Other Areas:

- Observing Caterpillars and looking at their life cycle.
- Minibeast den building
- Creating butterflies with natural materials eg: petals, leaves and sticks.
- Role playing being in a garden centre.

Homework:

- Draw and write a caption or simple sentence about a minibeast. Please encourage your child to come up with their own ideas and to sound it out independently. We do not want them to copy something an adult has written. We would like to see evidence of them using their phonics knowledge.

Reminders:

- If your child has their ears pierced, they are not allowed to wear earrings for PE. These should be taken out in the morning, otherwise your child will not be able to join in, for safety reasons.
- Drink bottles should contain water and not juice.
- If your child has a book, fiction or non-fiction, that links to our topic, they can bring it in to share with us and for the teachers to read.
- Red Words and letter formation examples are in the home school diaries. Please continue to practise these at home.
- The children shouldn't be climbing on the trees before or after school. Please also remind your child not to destroy the dens built by 'forest school' club. Various children have been seen hitting one another with the sticks and not being very safe.
- We are starting to learn team games for sports day. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school by Friday. They also need plimsols / black trainers, ready for going on the field.

Any questions please come and see us.

The Foundation Stage Team

