

Class Topic News

Summer Term 1st half 2018

Our topic for this half term is called 'Why do Ladybirds have spots?' We will explore questions about mini-beasts, habitats and how they move. Possible lines of enquiry include:

- Minibeasts in the natural environment
- Identifying similarities and differences between minibeasts
- Life cycles
- How they move and where they live

Below is an outline of what we hope to cover each week. However, because we follow the children's interests, this may sometimes be subject to change. Please remember, these homework ideas are not compulsory. If you have an interest in this subject, please do let us know.

Focus	You can help at home by...	This week you can bring in...
Monday 16 th April Slugs, Spiders and Snails	Taking the children on a slug, snail and spider hunt around the garden. Thinking about what they look like and how they are different or similar.	Take some photos of slugs, snails and/or spiders and bring them in to share with class. Feel free to email them to us. Or, draw and label a picture of one.
Monday 23 rd April Ladybirds and their spots	Our focus this week is on numbers and doubling. Ask your child to share their number doubles song with you. Can you find any numbers at home or out and about?	The ladybird doubling colouring activity - provided.
Monday 30 th April Life cycle of the butterfly	Look at the pictures and put them in the correct order. Talk about the life cycle of a butterfly together.	Life cycle of a butterfly activity - provided.
Monday 7 th May Things that Buzz	Help children to research facts about bees and wasps. Teach them one fact to remember and share at school.	One fact you have found out about bees or wasps to share with the class and a labelled drawing of which you have chosen. Can you write your fact down?
Monday 14 th May Where do they live?	Highlighting where bugs and insects live when you see them on a daily basis. Engage in discussions about natural environments and not our houses!	Create a home for an insect we have learnt about. This can be a drawing, painting, junk modelling or anything else the children want to use. Can you label it?



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Monday 21 st May How do they move?	Try and watch some minibeasts moving outside (do they slide, wiggle, fly or something else).	A dance or movement of your favourite mini beast to share in front of the class. Lots of practise at home so the rest of the class can try to guess.
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Other information:

- **Phonics** - this term we will be recapping all the sounds we have previously learnt and working to read and write more difficult words. We will look at how we read consonant clusters, for example st, pl, dr, pr, gl, tr etc. Please have a go at making some words with the sounds that have 2 consonants together. Regular practise is really important to help children become confident readers and writers. Perhaps alternate sound wallets with your child's reading book each night if the thought of doing both is too much for them.
- **Writing** - Please encourage your child to write at home as much as you can. Writing might be in the form of labels or captions for pictures they have drawn, lists, cards, letters, stories, or fascinating facts. It could be outside in the mud or inside on paper. Encourage them to name their work. Feel free to send in any independent pieces so we can add these to their writing books. We appreciate that the cursive writing style is tricky for some and will never force a child to write in this way. We will, however, encourage them and model at every suitable opportunity. If you have any concerns at all, please speak to one of us so we can provide some ideas and support your child accordingly. It is crucial that writing (as for reading) is seen as something fun and enjoyable, not a chore! If they really don't want to do it, don't force them! Seeing you write regularly at home (as simple as a shopping list) can be enough. Perhaps encourage them to write one too?
- **Jumpers and cardigans** - please can you check all school clothing, but especially jumpers and cardigans, are named clearly. This helps us when trying to reunite a jumper with its owner, especially as the days get warmer. Please also check your child has a full PE kit (t-shirt, shorts and trainers/plimsolls) as well as a full change of clothes in school in case of accidents or getting wet/muddy in water play or outside.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break, the children fully deserve it after an action packed few weeks. We look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Mrs Arthur, Miss Seviour & Mrs Schofield.