

# Love Learning, Love Life Always Aiming High

## Welcome to Reception Class!

This term our topic is 'Minibeasts'. We have chosen this topic because the children are becoming increasingly interested in our outdoor area. They love to explore and are beginning to ask very interesting questions. This topic will enable us to bring together all these interests and teach the children about insects, animals and habitats around the world.

We will encourage the children to learn as much about minibeasts as possible, using the internet and non-fiction books to find out interesting facts. We will also explore fiction books such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird', 'Ben's Butterfly Garden', 'Aaaagh Spider' etc.

Ways to help at home-

Practise letter sounds and names as well as 'ch, sh, th, ng, nk, ay, ee, igh, ow, oo, ar, or, ir, ou, oy. Encourage your child to write simple sentences and ask if they can read them back. Remind them to use 'Fred fingers' when 'segmenting to spell'. As you know, these are terms that they are familiar with.

When reading at home ask as many 'why' and 'how' questions as possible in order to extend their thinking. 'Why do you think she did that?' How is he feeling? But how do you know?

Practise number recognition to 20 (and beyond) and see if they can order these numbers. Ask them to identify what one more and one less than any given number is.

Encourage and support them in using language related to time and money. Ask if they would like to pay for smaller items in the shop. Talk about the coins, seeing if they can recognise any.

Talk as much as possible! Talk about family, friends, where you live, what your child likes and dislikes, what they are good at, their hobbies, your hobbies, anything and everything! Share feelings, thoughts and opinions. If children are confident to talk and when they are ready to write, their ideas will simply flow.

Question why things happen and how things work. Have discussions about all things big and small- from 'what do you fancy for tea?' to 'why do you think fish can't live on land?'

Talk about the importance of our similarities and differences- that we may like different things, have different skills and look different to each other but that it is those differences that make us special.

Many thanks for your continued support and if you ever have any questions please feel free to ask.



# Minibeasts

### Communication, Language and Literacy

- Set 1 and 2 sounds (Read, Write, Inc)
- Capital letters / letter names
- Tricky Words - they, are, all, said, so, have, like, some, come
- Guided Reading / Individual Reading
- Fiction books and Non-Fiction texts about 'Mini-beasts'
- Re-telling stories
- Writing instructions
- Writing at length, using simple punctuation
- Writing recounts
- Lists
- Describing words
- Alliteration and rhyming activities

### Mathematics

- Engage in practical mathematical activities involving sorting, counting and measuring
- Time - Sequencing familiar events, O'clock, the seasons, days of the week
- Begin to use the fraction one-half
- Learning about symmetry
- Recording data, using objects and pictures to create simple block graphs
- Addition and subtraction of two single digit numbers
- Doubling, halving, sharing
- Problem solving

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- SEAL theme 'Relationships'
- Showing care and concern for living things and our environment
- Taking responsibility for their own actions
- Resolving conflict and showing sensitivity to others

### Understanding the World

- Learning about the characteristics of living things
- Exploring mini-beast habitats
- Learning about life cycles
- Learning about the similarities and differences between living things, materials, places and objects
- Using the internet and non-fiction books to learn about mini-beasts.
- R.E - Friendship
- Completing a simple computer program
- Using a range of Apps on the iPads

### Physical Development

- Games and Gymnastics
- Fine Motor Skills - Holding a pencil, letter formation
- Gross motor skills- jumping, skipping, maintaining balance, coordination, throwing and catching a ball
- Staying safe
- Keeping healthy

### Expressive Arts and Design

- Explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design and texture
- Working with clay and other malleable materials to achieve a planned effect
- Exploring what happens when they mix colours
- Using different mediums - pastels, fabrics, charcoals, paint (different brush sizes)
- 'Creating and making' with natural objects
- Observational drawing and paintings
- Music - Growth & Change; Loud and Quiet
- Responding to music through movement