

News from the Early Years Team



Term 4/February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday and join us in looking forward to the run up to Easter! The children have chosen our new topic for Term 4 which will be 'Insects'.

Insects

We will start by learning to identify features of insects and other living things. We will continue by examining habitats of minibeasts; using magnifying glasses to observe minibeasts we collect from the nature areas in our garden. We will learn how to classify them by looking at features such as pattern, colour, size, number of legs and naming body parts. We will also explore the life-cycles of both chickens and butterflies.



Fiction - We will read and discuss *Superworm*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Busy Spider*. We will write food diaries and create colourful artwork to retell the stories.

Non-Fiction - We will consult a range of simple non-fiction texts to learn about the insects we discover in the nature areas outside. We will revise how to accurately use the contents and index pages to find information quickly. We will write 'Did you know?' facts about our favourite insects which we learn about in the texts.

Easter

During this topic we will learn how and why Christians celebrate Easter. We will read and discuss *The Easter Story* from the Christian bible, develop our understanding of who Jesus was, and why he is so important to Christians. We will explore traditions surrounding the celebration of Easter, such as egg hunts, bunnies, and chocolate, and get involved in traditional Easter activities such as baking, decorating eggs, egg hunts, and card making.

In addition to this, we will continue to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme, *Read, Write Inc*. We will be revising the sounds already taught, alongside teaching and reinforcing the new sounds (long vowels). The children will continue to



practise blending sounds together to read simple and increasingly more complex words and will continue to bring home red words to practise reading on sight. SET A spellings will also be revised weekly. Children will build on their knowledge of how to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops effectively when writing sentences.

During this term children will also revise counting, recognising, writing, and ordering numbers 0-50 and beyond. We will develop our learning on calculation further, using addition and subtraction in written form as well as revising number bonds to 5 and 10. We will begin to learn how to use a number line accurately to help us calculate more complex addition sums involving 1 and 2-digit numbers.

Role Play Area

This term, the children have chosen to have two role play areas; one topic based and one domestic based:

- Bug Research Lab
- Hairdressers

If you have anything at home (or work) that you could donate or lend to us for these areas, or know of someone else who can, it would be greatly appreciated, such as...

Bug Research Lab	Hairdressers
Lab coats Safety goggles	Unwanted hair clippers Empty mousse/ hairspray/ hair gel containers Hair styling magazines
Anything else that you can think of!	

Requests

- ➡ Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every Friday. The children have really enjoyed learning about 'dance' and developing 'movement' skills in PE which we are continuing until Easter. The children will be developing their own routines!
- ➡ Please ensure that **all of your child's clothing is named**, including coats, gloves, hats and PE kits.
- ➡ Reading books will continue to be changed each Monday. Please ensure your child's books are in their book bag each day.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's education. We hope that you and your child have another great term. Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small.

Miss Henson, Mrs Bussey and Mrs Redman
The Early Years Foundation Stage Team