

## Nursery Newsletter: Summer 1 2018

Welcome back everybody! We hope you had a wonderful Easter holiday.

For the first few days we are going to be **finishing off our topic of Plants and Flowers**, allowing the children to see what has happened to the seeds we have planted after a longer period of time.

After that we will start our main topic for this half term which is...

### **MINIBEASTS!**

We will be learning about caterpillars and butterflies, worms, spiders and bees to name a few. Excitingly we will watch real caterpillars grow into butterflies in the classroom! We will also be visiting Fulham Palace for a minibeast hunt for our first school trip together!

#### Communication and Language

Tied to our 'Minibeast' topic, our new role play area is a campsite! There are minibeasts and animals to discover, a tent, camp and picnic equipment! The children will develop vocabulary related to our topic, and we will encourage the classes to interact with the role play area to collaborate and form a narrative in their play.

Our circle times will increasingly encourage children to form questions to ask their peers, further developing their relational interactions.

#### Physical Development

Nursery will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis, or on a Thursday with Miss de Souza. This half term pupils will focus on movement, balance and ball skills. They will run a curve and control objects on different body parts while moving. In addition the class will practice throwing underarm and work in pairs to send and receive objects in different ways. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative games. We will continue to create different obstacle courses for the children and encourage children to move like the different minibeasts we have learnt about.

We are really pleased with the children's increased ability to care for themselves. To develop this further we will focus on the need to use equipment and tools safely becoming increasingly aware of risks, and how to transport things with care.

We will continue to encourage the tripod grip when the children are using writing tools.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will have an increased focus on relationships, how we initiate play with others, encouraging the children to increasingly interact with each other using language. We will continue to develop the children's understanding of sharing. We will use stories such as "The Bad Tempered Ladybird" to talk about more complex emotions and facial expressions.

#### Literacy

We will continue to consolidate the sounds learnt already (satpinckehrmdgoul) and learn the following sounds, continuing to follow the Jolly Phonics scheme:

Week 1 (beginning 17<sup>th</sup> April) :f

Week 2 (beginning 23<sup>th</sup> April): j

Week 3 (beginning 30<sup>th</sup> April): b

Week 4 (beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May): v

Week 5 (beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May): w

Week 6 (beginning 21<sup>st</sup> May): z

Please note that the children should be familiar with the sound the letter makes, not just the letter name (so 'g' as in garden, rather than 'GEE'). The letter's name can always be learnt later whereas the sound is needed as the children start to blend sounds together to read! I have been so impressed with the children's engagement with and knowledge of the letter sounds!

We will continue to broaden the children's knowledge of fiction and non-fiction books around the topic of Minibeasts. Our Power of Reading books that we will focus on are: 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, 'Yucky Worms' by Vivian French, 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson, and 'Argggghhh Spider' by Lydia Monk. We will use some of these books to practice retelling and sequencing stories.

We will also work together on the tricky concept of **rhyme**. Please do reinforce this at home, drawing attention to words that rhyme and practicing continuing a rhyming string together, e.g. bat, cat, mat.

We will continue to develop children's use of mark making for meaning by making story maps and filling in a caterpillar life cycle diary during the term.

## **Maths**

### **Number**

We will be continuing with our counting and number recognition. We will start ordering numbers and finding one more and one less, and also having a focus on comparing different amounts.

### **Shape, Space and Measure**

We will continue to consolidate the children's knowledge of simple 2D shapes, and will introduce repeating patterns to the class.

## **Understanding the World**

After our Plants and Flowers topic the children are increasingly aware of the world around them, and we are hearing lots of fascinating observations! Our Minibeast topic will build on this knowledge as children discover more about growth and decay and observe different minibeasts, and small similarities and differences between them. We will look at life cycles together and will watch live caterpillars develop into butterflies in the classroom! We will also build a wormery to watch worms at work. We will visit the school garden to hunt for other minibeasts to observe and look after in the classroom. We will also be taking part in a minibeast hunt at Fulham Palace for our first school trip!

With our focus on relationships this term we will encourage children to think more about the people they are close to and the communities they are part of.

We will also be incorporating increasing amounts of technology into the classroom which the children can access, using simple programmable 'bee-bots' in small groups.

## **RE**

This half term we will be thinking about the question of "Why do Christians believe that Jesus is special?" and reading New Testament stories together.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Using minibeasts as our theme we will be continuing to develop the children's musical awareness through singing known songs as well as learning new ones and playing singing games. By putting actions to the words, the children will develop their sense of pulse and we will explore more of the musical elements when singing the songs, for example tempo and dynamics. We will also be focusing on practising their listening skills through moving to music and using sung instructions. We will encourage moving to the music in the style of the creatures we are learning about.

We will also think about how to represent minibeasts through art and design. Children will be encouraged to talk about their experiences of insects, what they feel about them and how they can feed that into their artworks. We will introduce children to weaving to make their own spider's web. We will also look at the artists Pollock and Matisse to inspire our minibeast art. We are encouraging pupils to increasingly use their imagination during free-flow recyclable modelling to create minibeasts and more.

We will be preparing a canvas each for the FOSMS Art Exhibition. This year we will be creating work on the exciting theme of 'Cool Britannia' and Nursery will be representing crowns. For Nursery children you do not need to do any preparation or sketches at home, but do be discussing the environment and how important bees are in it. Please put the art exhibition in your diary - **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May** - when your child's work will be unveiled!

## Other things to note:

### Parent helpers needed for trips

We will be going on two school trips during this term! Please note the dates below, and see a separate letter on the different schedule for the day and what children will need. **We will need several parent helpers (who are DBS checked and have attended the volunteer induction) for this trip to happen, if you can volunteer your time for either or both please do talk to Miss de Souza as soon as possible (even if you have talked to us already do confirm which dates you can make).**

### Sunny weather

Now the sun is starting to come out please do send your children **with a named hat**. There is **very little shade** in our outdoors area and children do spend a lot of their day outside!

Similarly it is really important to please **apply sunscreen on your child before coming to school**. We are **not allowed to apply additional sunscreen** so please investigate 'All Day' sunscreen brands. Thank you in advance.

Children are now spending a lot of time at the water and sand tables outside. This has fantastic opportunities for problem solving, science investigation and independent exploration - all skills we are encouraging for your child's life-long learning. Please be aware that they may get wet - it will be worth keeping a change of clothes, socks and shoes in school for this, although if it is hot we will let the sun do the drying in minor cases!

### Toys in school

Please also ensure that you child is **not bringing in toys or food from home**. The latter is a health and safety issue as we have children with severe allergies. Although some children may need a small comfort toy to help them settle into Nursery (please agree this with Miss de Souza), toys should, as a rule, stay at home - we are so worried that they will get lost, broken or cause fights or comparison with others! **Please talk to your child/ren and explain that now they are used to Nursery they do not need to take toys with them.**

### Cooking Money and Cake Sale

We are continuing our cooking sessions this term, after all the planting last term. Thank you to everyone who sent in a voluntary contribution of £40 for cooking/craft. If you have not yet sent in a contribution, and would like to, it can be deposited in a named envelope inside your child's school folder or be given to a member of Nursery staff. Thank you in advance. Huge thanks for another incredible cake sale! This will cover having the caterpillars in our classroom this term!

### Junk modelling

Last term we unfortunately lost all our supplies for 'junk modelling' so we are having to build this up from scratch. We would be really grateful for any used, clean recycling you have e.g. cardboard boxes and tubes, plastic trays, yoghurt tubs etc. The children love using these to cut and join together and often produce some incredibly imaginative creations!

### Dates for your diary:

**\*Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - Fulham Palace Minibeast Hunt trip for first half and full time children.**

**\*Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday (no school)**

**\*Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Fulham Palace Minibeast Hunt trip for second half and full time children.**

**\*Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Whole school photo**

**\*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May - FOSMS Art Event-** a chance to view and purchase your child's fantastic canvas

**\*Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Parents into the classroom!** We would like to invite you into the classroom on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (11.00 for first half of the week children, 2.45 for full time and second half of the week)** to see what the children have learnt so far about minibeasts. The children love the chance to show you around so please pop this date in the diary!

**\*Finally our trip to Bocketts Farm is confirmed as Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June.** All children are invited in for the whole day, so please put this date in your diaries. Again if you would be able to accompany us please do talk to Miss de Souza.

Once again, a huge thanks for your continued support and encouragement, and wishing you all a very good half term,

Miss de Souza, Mrs Baines and Miss Martin