



NURSERY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1 2019

Welcome back everybody! We hope you had a wonderful Easter holiday. Our topic for this term 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 and we will be visiting Fulham Palace for a minibeast hunt for our first school trip together! We will be learning about an individual minibeast each week in the following order:

- Week 1 (beginning 29th April) : introduction to minibeasts
- Week 2 (beginning 7th May): worms
- Week 3 (beginning 13th May): bees
- Week 4 (beginning 20th May): spiders

With caterpillars and butterflies, snails, ladybirds and others being covered after the half term break.

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

The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills during free flow time and PE lessons with Miss de Souza, with a focus on movement, balances and balls skills. 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, including scissors.

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 appropriate 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 (satpinckehrmdgoulf) and learn the following sounds, continuing to follow the Jolly Phonics scheme:

Week 1 (beginning 29th April) : b

Week 2 (beginning 7th May): z

Week 3 (beginning 13th May): w

Week 4 (beginning 20th May): j

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, size and pattern.

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! See details below.

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 around a Bicentennial theme, and the Nursery will be printing bright pastel patterns on their canvas, and printing the number 200 in contrasting colours. For Nursery children you do not need to do any preparation or sketches at home. Please put the art exhibition in your diary - **Saturday 18th 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 still need 3 more parent helpers for Monday 13th May, 1 more for Thursday 23rd May and 3 more for Wednesday 26th June** (who are DBS checked and have attended the volunteer induction) for this trip to happen, if you can volunteer your time for any of these 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).

If a couple of parents/carers with DBS checks have availability **on Monday 11th and Thursday 13th June (mornings)** then I am hoping to do another trip in small groups to launch our café role play area, but it slightly depends on availability - do let me know if you are free!

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 your 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 and our new tee pee tent in the role play area!

Junk modelling

Please continue to bring in 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, and we get through this very quickly!

Giving Machine

Giving Machine is a fantastic way to give money to school at no further cost to you, whilst doing your normal internet shopping. Please do consider using this - see previous parent communications, or ask one of the Nursery team and we will talk you through this! Mrs Dias says she sets a browser reminder to prompt her when she is purchasing something!

Dates for your diary (up until the end of term):

***Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (no school)**

***Monday 13th May - Fulham Palace Minibeast Hunt trip for first half and full time children.
3 more helpers needed**

***Saturday 18th May - FOSMS Art Event - a chance to view and purchase your child's fantastic canvas, in the school hall**

***Thursday 23rd May - Fulham Palace Minibeast Hunt trip for second half and full time children.
1 more helper needed**

***Wednesday 26th June - Bocketts Farm trip. 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.**

***Wednesday 3rd July - (11.00 for first half of the week children, 2.45 for full time and second half of the week)** We would like to invite you into the classroom on 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!

***Thursday 4th July - EYFS and KS1 Sports day in the morning. All children invited to attend. Please note all children go home after this (12pm), and there is no school in the afternoon.**

***Wednesday 10th July - There is no school in the afternoon on this day, due to the new Nursery induction.**

***Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th July - EYFS and KS1 Play Performances and Rehearsals - more details to follow, but second half children will also be involved.**

***Friday 19th July - End of Term.** Early finish time of 2.30pm.

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 Mrs Dias