

## **Newsletter details And Medium Term Plan– Playgroup – Lent term 2020/2021.**

### **First Half Term Theme – Mini-Beasts**

#### **Weekly breakdown**

Week 1 – Introduction of the theme: MINI-BEASTS - – What are Minibeasts?

Week 2- Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they move? Compare them with other animals. (Big and small)

Week 3 – Creepy crawlies: worms, caterpillar, ants, spiders. How do they move?

Week 4 – Bugs: ladybugs, bees, firefly, dragonfly.

Week 5 – Grasshopper, butterfly, snails

Week 6 – Nature Exploration (Minibeasts around the school) scientific observation.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

- Share stories, knowledge and experiences that we have about minibeasts.
- What is our favorite bug and why? Is there any bug that we are not keen on? Scared of? Why?
- Talk about bug collecting and how we have to be gentle and kind. We must look after them and then release them unharmed.
- Read “The Bad Tempered Ladybird” and ask why the ladybird was so cross. What makes us cross? What makes our parents or friends cross? Empathise with the friendly ladybird in the story.
- Talk about the behavior of the bad tempered lady and discuss potential consequences.
- Role play scenarios about mistreating mini beasts and discusses what is right and wrong.
- Look at other books and videos about mini beasts and discuss consequences of mistreating minibeasts.
- Recount personal account of being afraid of a minibeast or counteracting fear.
- Collect mini beasts from school garden and field.
- Learn to be gentle and caring towards others. Also show respect and affection, for other children, adults and the environment.

#### **Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)**

- Learn names of various minibeasts to build up vocabulary through new experiences and new language.
- Talk about personal experiences in circle times and discussions.
- Clap out the syllables of insect names. Count each one and do the same with each child’s name.

- Use imaginative talk in role play, small world play, puppet play.
- Ask the children to describe a minibeast, Fast, slow ,tickly, slimy, long , short, hard, delicate.
- Structured and unstructured discussions linked to books, topics, routines, events etc.
- Talk about pictures in books.
- Make a zigzag book of a snail's trail using positional language.
- Minibeast habitat- Who lives here?
- Sequence own Hungry Caterpillar book.
- Make up stories inspired by books, poems, pictures, music.

### **Songs and Rhymes to build up vocabulary –**

- I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee
- The fuzzy caterpillar
- The ants go marching one by one
- The itsy bitsy spider
- There's a worm at the bottom of my garden
- Creepy Crawly.
- Wiggly Woo.
- Five Garden Snails.
- Ants on my Arm
- Open Shut Them
- I dig a hole and plant my seeds.

### **Books for the first half term**

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- The Very Busy Spider
- The Very Noisy Cricket
- The Very Lonely Firefly
- The Bad Tempered Ladybird
- Flutter by, Butterfly
- Incy Wincy Spider
- The Big Bug
- The Grouchy Ladybug
- Mad About Minibeasts
- The Very Lazy Ladybird

### **Mathematical development (Numeracy)**

- Collect snails and have snail races with them. Use a timer and see which one goes the furthest in that time.
- Count the number of spots on a ladybird. Roll the dice and add that amount of spots to paper lady birds
- Play 'beetle'. Roll the dice and add the body parts, 6 for the body, 5 for the head, 4 for a leg, 3 for antenna, 2 for an eye and 1 for a tail. Each beetle needs 2 eyes, 6 legs and 2 antennas.
- Look at butterfly symmetry, use mirrors to explain this and explore it.
- Sing number songs and rhymes.
- Play recognition error games with puppet.
- Recognise numerals to 10 and quantify to 5.
- Trace numbers in air, floor, Paper and sand.
- Compare objects, big/small, long/short.
- Sort out set of mini beasts into wings, no wings, fast, slow, pattered and plain.
- Contribute to graph showing number of legs for various minibeasts.
- Count fruits in Hungry Caterpillar story.
- Measure length of different minibeasts
- Explore mini beast pattern.
- Identify shapes and colours.

### **Understanding the World (UW)**

- Make bug dens for the garden
- Set up a bowl to watch Tadpoles grow.
- Create a wormery and watch worms grow compost and make more worms.
- Set up a small world scene to explore with plastic bugs, greenery, rocks and bits of wood
- Use magnifying glasses to look at bugs more closely. Talk about the number of legs, do they have wings?
- Check the vegetable patch and see if any minibeasts have been in the vegetables. Ask questions like, How do we know they have been there? Look for evidence. Nibbles marks, baby bugs, snail trails, and worm casts.
- Look at life cycles.
- What do bugs eat?
- Explore textures such as wet/dry sand.
- Talk about events in home lives.
- Discuss changes, patterns, similarities and differences. E.g. observe the weather.

- Use small world and role play to explore other lives and environments.
- Develop language of time through sequencing events and daily routines.
- Collect minibeasts for investigation.

### **Physical Development (PD)**

- Wiggle like worms, flap like butterfly, buzz around like a bee
- Talk about how snails move around and leave a silver trail behind
- Ask the children to walk their pen over the paper to make a trail or a paintbrush and water trail over the patio.
- Play stuck in the mud.
- Hide plastic bugs in the garden and ask the children to go on a bug hunt, gathering the bugs by using tweezers to pick them up and pop them in a jar.
- Make caterpillar bread using dough and some food colouring.
- Explore range of climbing, balancing and sliding apparatus, wheeled toys, bats and balls, hoops etc.
- Solve range of jigsaws.
- Threading and beading activities.
- Play dress ups.
- Play with sand and water toys.
- Model with clay, dough, rolling pins and cutters.
- Use cutlery independently at mealtimes.

### **Expressive Art and Design**

- Painting with finger, bubbles, flowers, leaves, ice, hand, splatter) with different sized brushes.
- Make music through singing, body movements, sounds, classroom objects and musical instruments.
- Recreate and make up new stories and characters through imaginative and small world play.
- Make butterfly symmetry painting by folding paper in half
- Make spiders webs by rolling a golf ball in a tray with white paint on coloured paper
- Paint and colour minibeasts.
- Make bugs from playdough, pipe cleaners and recycled materials
- Set up an 'Ugly bug ball'. Make headwear and wings. Dance, play music.
- Make minibeast gardens using grass, stones, small dishes with water etc. on a plant pot saucer.
- Bug small world play.
- Make mini beasts with paper plates.
- Bug rhymes and songs.

## **Science**

- Floating and sinking.
- Exploring objects with magnifying glass.
- Milk painting.
- Ice melting with salt and watercolors.
- Magnetic exploration.
- Sorting living and non- living things.
- Life cycles.

## **ICT**

- We will be operating the camera and taking pictures of different minibeasts.
- We will make videos of ourselves making different minibeasts movements.
- We will learn how to turn on equipment with on and off switches.

## **Second Half Term Theme – Gardening**

### **Weekly Breakdown**

- Week 1 - Visit to the Garden (What can we see in the Garden?)
- Week 2 – Garden equipment – (Rake, shovel, watering can, garden boots and gloves)
- Week 3 – Plants in the garden (flowers, vegetables, fruits.)
- Week 4 - Trees in the garden (Parts of a tree)
- Week 5 – Nature walk (Sensory plants and natural materials, weather)
- Week 6 – Reinforcement

### Books for the second half Term

- Plant a Garden
- Oliver’s Vegetables
- Spot goes to the Farm
- Muddy Paws
- Small, Small, Seeds.

- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Isabella's Garden
- The Tiny Seed
- Planting a rainbow