



Key knowledge

During our topic “ Marvellous Minibeasts’ Nursery children will find out about different minibeasts and bugs that live in our gardens. They will learn to recognise and describe different minibeasts and develop an understanding of the life cycle of a butterfly. They will learn about how minibeasts, plants and themselves grow and change over time.



Key vocabulary:

minibeast bug insect spider ladybird worm woodlouse

life cycle caterpillar cocoon chrysalis butterfly

legs, wings, eyes, antennae, spots, stripes, colours, shell

tall short long taller shorter longer



Marvellous Minibeasts

Prime Areas

Communication & Language

This term children will develop their language skills whilst playing alongside their peers in our different role play areas including a Garden Centre. The Children will continue to take part in TalesToolkit sessions where they will have the opportunity to work together to create their own stories and begin to record their ideas through mark making.

Physical Development

Children will continue to develop their fine motor skills by using a range of one-handed tools such as scissors. Whilst outside we will have fun learning some new parachute games and will be focussing on travelling in different ways and throwing and catching beanbags and balls.

[Can you make an obstacle course at home and find different ways to travel?](#)

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During circle times we will be talking about growing and changing. The children will have the opportunity to observe and talk about changes in nature and then talk about how they have grown since they were babies. We will also be developing our emotional vocabulary and talking about different feelings.

[What can you do to help you when you feel cross? Can you look at pictures in a book and talk about how the characters are feeling.](#)

Specific Areas

Reading

Children will listen and join in with stories and be encouraged to talk about the main events and suggest possible endings. They will also explore non-fiction texts to find out interesting facts about different minibeasts. Main texts will include: Mad about Minibeasts, The Very Busy Spider, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Snail Trail and Worm Weather.

Writing

A variety of mark making tools such as pens, pencils, paintbrushes and chinks will be available for the children to mark make with. We will focus on encouraging the children to give meaning to their marks and those that are ready to start to have a go at writing the letters in their names. Other children will begin to write initial sounds they hear in simple words.

Phonics

Children will take part in regular phase 1 phonics sessions which are tailored to their level. They will practise their listening skills and will become attuned to the sounds around them. We will be developing our awareness of rhythm and rhyme and alliteration and exploring the different sounds our voices can make. Children who are ready will begin to work on orally segmenting and blending simple words and beginning to recognise letters. [Can you make a silly soup at home, collect different objects from around your house in a saucepan that start with the same sound?](#)

Maths

Children will be working hard at practising their counting in different contexts and remembering to use accurate 1:1 correspondence. We will also be visiting Ten Town to help us with our number recognition and will link numerals to groups of objects. The children will be using their measuring skills by comparing the sizes of different objects and will spend time talking about length and height.

Understanding of the World

Children will have the opportunity to plant seeds and watch them grow. We will spend lots of time hunting for minibeasts and we will also have the excitement of the arrival of our very own caterpillars to watch grow and transform into beautiful butterflies.

[What do plants need to grow? Can you have a go at growing some seeds at home?](#)

Expressive Arts & Design

Children will enjoy learning a range of songs linked to growth and minibeasts and will use paint, clay and junk modelling to create simple representations. Our main focus nursery rhyme of the term will be Incy Wincy Spider. Children will make butterfly prints: folded paper painting and make observational drawings. They will develop their Understanding that they can use lines to enclose a space, and then begin to use these shapes to represent different objects. Children will enjoy dancing to music and creating movements to depict different minibeasts.