

Dear parents/carers,

This week...

The children really enjoyed learning about minibeasts through our focus story *The Very Lazy Ladybird* by Isobel Finn. They were engaged in retelling the story and exploring new vocabulary such as *lazy, cling, journey, swoop* and *bumpy*, developing their understanding and use of language.

The children:

- Took part in a minibeast café role play, encouraging communication, imagination and social interaction
- Retold the story using small world resources, helping them to sequence events and build confidence when speaking
- Explored creative activities such as free painting, chalk drawing and minibeast colouring, developing their fine motor skills
- Practised tracing their names and numbers, as well as copying letters, supporting early writing development
- Engaged in maths activities where they measured minibeasts and explored the concepts of heavy and light
- Developed their understanding of number through counting and quantity matching, for example identifying how many spots the ladybird needs
- Explored a ladybird sensory tray, encouraging curiosity and descriptive language
- Used playdough to create their own ladybirds, supporting creativity and hand strength

Next week..

We will begin a new topic on transportation, introducing the story *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin. Through this text, the children will explore journeys, observe changes in the environment and begin to understand how transport connects places.

The children will:

- Engage in a train station role play area, taking on different roles such as passengers, ticket officers and train drivers, developing communication and social skills
- Paint trains using a variety of colours and tools, supporting creativity and fine motor development
- Explore a train small world to retell the story and create their own narratives
- Learn about old and new trains, beginning to understand how transport has changed over time and linking to their own experiences
- In phonics, we will recap rhyming and initial sounds through games such as:
"I spy something beginning with..."
- Matching and identifying rhyming words in familiar songs and stories
- In maths, we will focus on securing understanding of numbers 0-10 by:
Counting objects accurately using one-to-one correspondence (e.g. counting train carriages)
- Matching numbers to quantities using practical resources
- Developing confidence in recognising numerals through play and daily routines

Reminders

Please remember that children should not bring toys from home, as they can easily get lost or broken and may cause upset.

We also encourage children to develop independence at mealtimes. Please support your child to practise cutting their food at home using a fork and a child-friendly knife (such as a butter knife).

Thank you for your continued support.
Marina and Belinda 😊