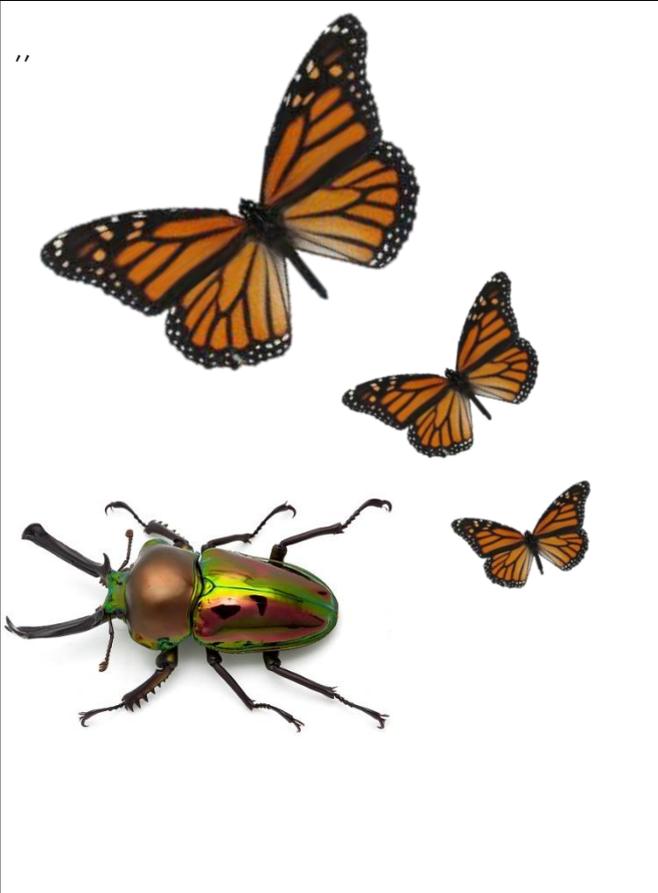


MINIBEASTS AND LIFE CYCLES



The Big Idea

In this topic we will be investigating the myriad of minibeasts which live all around us. We will investigate how many types of minibeasts we can find in our field, pond and playground, and use magnifying glasses, information books and computer programs to identify these. We will extend our survey by setting up a "travelling bug back pack", which the children will take turns in bringing home each evening to survey the minibeasts in their own back gardens. We will talk about the good and the harm which minibeasts do and the part they play in supporting ecosystems.

We will also be finding out about life cycles, and will focus on that of the butterfly. We will place live caterpillars (painted ladies) into individual vials and observe carefully over 3 weeks as the caterpillar stops eating, hangs upside down and spins itself into a silky cocoon before eventually emerging as a butterfly. We will release these into our Reception garden.

Outdoor Learning

We will make bug houses and habitats for minibeasts. We will enjoy our forest school sessions on Wednesdays. We will continue to water and weed our garden and allotment and hopefully harvest our produce!



Understanding of the World

The children in Barn Owls will take part in topic related activities. These will include:

- Finding out about the habitats of minibeasts
- Being a minibeast detective, using a hunt checklist and magnifying glass
- Making a snail trail
- Making fruit kebabs
- The children will also have lots of opportunities to initiate their own learning, and will be encouraged to 'plan, do and review' their activities.

Expressive arts and design

All of our activities will encourage the children to be imaginative and to explore and use different media and materials. Activities planned include:

- Painting symmetrical butterflies, combining different media
- Making 3D tube caterpillars
- Painting pebble ladybirds

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will concentrate on changes and transition and explore how we have changed since starting school. We will discuss what we are looking forward to/ feel worried about in Year 1, and who we can

talk to when we are feeling worried or scared.

RE

We will be exploring the theme of "Water, water everywhere" and will introduce the children to Bible stories around the theme of water, focusing on Noah's Ark. We will introduce the idea of water and washing as a symbol of cleansing, and extend the learning we started on our church visit about the use of the font. We will explore the idea that Christians believe God is with us all the time.

Music

In music we will continue to learn new songs and accompany these using instruments. We will clap rhythms and keep the beat using body percussion.

Trips and Events

- A trip to Drusillas Zoo Park, with a minibeast encounters session. (June 29th)
- Sports afternoon (June 15th)

English

- We will read a rich variety of stories and poems, many relating to our topic, including **The Hungry Caterpillar** and **The Tiny Seed** (Eric Carle).
- We will make a **zig-zag book** of the Hungry Caterpillar, adding the different food he ate each day.
- We will use **non-fiction texts** to find out information about minibeast. We will write a description of our chosen one.
- We will write an invitation in role for the **ugly bug ball**. Which food would you like to order? What games would you play? Which predator should you not sit next to?
- We will complete **rhyming string spider word webs**.
- In **phonics** we will learn the very last few blends in phase 3 and then revise all that we have learnt, using the blends to write lots of words and short sentences.
- We will practise and write our **phase 3 tricky** words and those children who are ready will read and write **phase 4 words**.
- We will have a selection of writing tools available near the outside **Minibeast Investigation Lab**, along with paper on clipboards, to encourage independent writing.
- We will encourage all the children to record their findings in our class "**Travelling**

- Painting spider webs
- Making a minibeast mask for the ugly bug ball

Physical Development

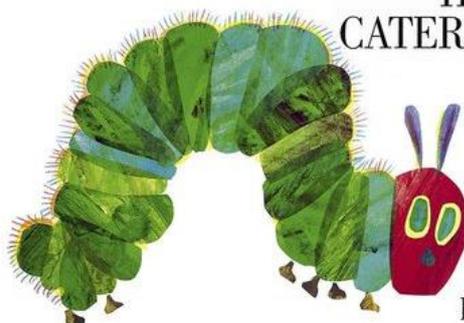
We will be helping the children develop good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. To develop large movements we will be:

- exploring minibeast movements
- making a spider obstacle course
- completing weekly circuits using the apparatus
- Practising throwing and catching skills

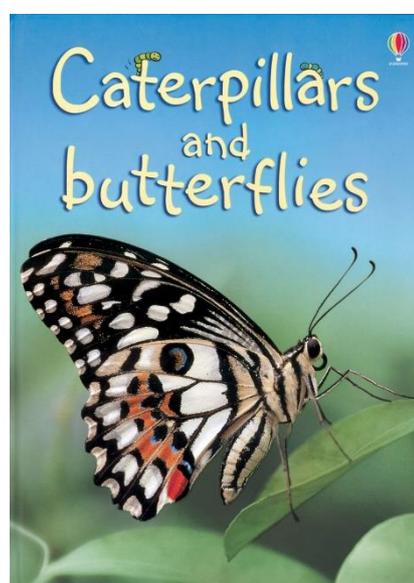
In **health and self-care** we will be exploring different ways to keep healthy and fit. We will use the sand timers to find out how many times we can complete an activity in one minute. We will make healthy fruit kebabs.



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR



by Eric Carle



Class Bug Pack".

Maths

- In **number**, the Barn Owls will continue to develop reliable counting from one to twenty and place the numbers in order.
- They will work out which number is one more or one less than a given number.
- Using quantities and objects, they will add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.
- They will solve problems, including **doubling, halving and sharing**.
- Some children will begin to estimate a number of objects and check it for accuracy.
- Some children will solve practical problems that involve combining groups of 2, 5 or 10.
- In **shape, space and measure** the children will be introduced to **symmetry**.
- They will recognise, create and describe **patterns**, based on caterpillar patterns.
- They will begin to use a selection of everyday coins to understand the value of 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p.
- They will make a **pictogram** of their favourite minibeast.
- They will use everyday language to talk about size, weight, position, and time.

Class Routines:

Reading

Please continue with daily reading and filling in the reading diaries. Those children reading daily at home are being given a flying start towards independent learning. Thank you.

P.E. LESSONS:

- The children need to have their P.E. kit in school each day and we will send it home every few weeks on a Friday so that it can be washed and returned on Monday.
- Long hair should be tied back for school, but it must be tied back for P.E. lessons so a spare hair band is a good idea.

COMMUNICATION:

- I will always be available at the end of school if you would like to speak to me, and if you need to see me in the morning, ask to pop along to the classroom.
- We would love to hear of our Barn Owls' achievements at home, so please do fill in WOW slips which we can add into their learning journeys.
- If you need more slips, please ask and we will provide. Thank you!