

Dear Parents and Carers,








A week of wonder in Butterflies class

The Butterflies have had another wonderful week full of curiosity, care and discovery as we explore nature and lifecycles together.

What we are learning & why



This half term in butterflies, children are learning through caring for living things and exploring nature together. They are developing a strong sense of safety and belonging, curiosity about the world, and confidence to try new experiences. Through real, hands-on experiences such as observing life cycles, caring for animals and growing plants, children are building language, creativity and early thinking skills. They are learning to express ideas, work cooperatively, show kindness and manage feelings. Stories, songs and mark-making support early literacy, while everyday experiences like counting, comparing and noticing change help develop early maths skills.

Our anchor experiences this half term

-  Growing plants from seed (beans, potatoes and more)
-  Observing lifecycles (frogspawn to frog, duck eggs to ducklings)
-  Minibeast exploring
-  Building homes for wildlife (bug hotels/bird boxes)
-  Recycling and sustainability activities
-  Nature art, storytelling and observational drawing
-  Visiting the meadow garden in small groups

Meadow experiences

Children have been visiting the meadow in small groups. For many, this is their first time in this space, so we have been helping them to feel familiar and safe. Already they have noticed minibeasts, trees and flowers (lots of daisies and buttercups), wondered what might grow in our raised beds, made decisions together about seeds, listened to nature sounds, and enjoyed running or quiet moments in the open space.

We said farewell to our frogs , now safely returned to their home, and to our ducklings  on Friday. The children did an amazing job caring for them and were fascinated by watching these real-life changes unfold.

Language

Here is some of the language we have been or will be introducing children to this half term.

Simple Words & Makaton Signs

Seed, water, plant, caterpillar, butterfly, wings, eggs, tadpole, frog, bug, look, wriggle, crawl, gentle, help, safe, sort, recycle, rubbish, look, same, different, now, next, count, big, small, full, empty, calm, kind, keep trying

Rich / Sophisticated Vocabulary

sprout, seedling, root, stem, shoot, bud, soil, compost, chrysalis, cocoon, transform, emerge, frogspawn, hatch, gills, froglet, frog, magnifier, habitat, camouflage, antennae, compare, discover, shelter, nest, bug hotel, bird box, protect, reduce, reuse, recycle, sort, materials, compost, waste, texture, smooth, rough, squishy, gritty, pattern, print, mix, notice, observe, question, record, sequence, change, similar, first, next, then, finally, describe, label, non-fiction, count, sort, classify, compare, tall, short, heavy, light, full, empty, pattern, safe hands, calm, listening ears, teamwork, patience

Stories this week

Squirrels: *I Try, Flower Clock, Little Bear's Spring, Fletcher and the Springtime Blossom*

Badgers: *Pig in the Pond* and silly sentence games (who/what)

Hedgehogs: *I Love Animals, The Giant Turnip*

Rabbits: *Dear Zoo*

Owls: Spring Picnic sensory story

Team news

We are pleased to welcome **Mary-Lou** to our team 😊 and we wish **Lana** a smooth recovery from her operation.

Please remember

✓ Named water bottles and hats

✗ No crocs or flip-flops (not suitable for our environment)

👕 A spare set of clothes (including pants and socks)

🧦 If you have any nursery socks at home, we would really appreciate their return or donations of outgrown socks – thank you!

As always, please feel free to email or call.

Best wishes,

Liz 🌻

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