



Welcome to the Spring 2 edition of the '**Saplings Class**' newsletter. You will find lots of information about the curriculum, how to help your child at home and any other notes. If you have any questions, please ask the class teacher. Our current learning journey is: **Mini beasts – What's down at the bottom of the Garden?**



Curriculum outline

Communication and Language Development We will be sharing stories and books that are linked to our new Topic 'Mini beasts' and throughout our text we will be encouraging children to share their own experiences through purposeful planned discussions during circle times and during pair talk opportunities. Our role play and small world area will also enable children to communicate and demonstrate their new learning with others through recreating the stories using props, or whilst taking on the role of a scientist to observing and exploring different features of minibeasts and their habitats.

Physical Development In PE we will be focusing on games this term and using the ball skills we have embedded to create team games. We will be continuing to develop our fine motor skills and pincer grip through our weekly funky fingers challenges and during mark making, daily transcription of sentences and during our discreet handwriting lessons when we will be focusing on the correct formation of lower case and capital letters.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – We will be developing our self-confidence when facing our 'fears' during the Mini beast petting zoo experience we have booked this term and continuing to learn how to take care for others living things in our world.

Literacy (Reading and Writing) We will share 3 fiction texts this half term, 'Mad about Minibeasts', 'Superworm' and 'Spinderella'. We will be developing our story language through acting out our stories, then creating our very own short stories following the Helicopter Story Scheme. Following our in school mini beasts visit we will recount our learning and understanding whilst building simple sentence, containing new vocabulary. We will continue taking part in daily Read Write Inc phonics sessions, and discreet handwriting with a focus on letter formation and spelling 'red word'. Children will also bring home their reading books and will be encouraged to practice spellings of high frequency words this term.

Maths We will begin exploring and learning numbers 9, 10 and beyond this term, whilst consolidating our understanding of previously covered numbers 0-8. We will be focussing on representing, identifying and comparing these new numbers whilst also exploring the composition of each number and beginning to use mathematical symbols to record.

Understanding the World: We will be exploring more about our Earth and in particular – what creatures live at the bottom of our garden?', Our key concepts this term will be 'Beauty, Fear and Care'. We will be looking closely at different features of minibeasts and their habitats to compare'

Expressive Arts and Design We will be planning, designing and creating clay minibeasts to then paint using our knowledge of their individual features.

Helping your child at home

- Please continue to share stories at home recording in reading records each time you do so. All children this term will begin to bring home blending and reading books, but please ensure this are brought back to school daily.
- Help your child to write their full name and practise recognising numbers now beyond 10 in different environments, outdoors, around the home and when out and about
- Help your child to form the numerals 0 – 10 as we will be beginning to record simple number sentences as part of our maths learning
- Complete 1 minute maths APP from White Rose Maths to support fast recognition of numbers to 10, and simple addition within 5 adding 0,1, or 2 more.
- Talk about everything- their day at school, our current topic and class story, their favourite activities in the classroom, school meals, anything! And please share any special events

Notes

- Please remember to put names in all clothes, including PE kit.
- PE will continue to take place EVERY THURSDAY so please remember PE kits.
- Please be reminded that **water only** is permitted in labelled bottles.
- Please remember your child needs a pair of wellies for **Forest Fridays**.
- Books will only be changed on a **Friday** and new homework will be sent out.
- **Key Dates:**
 - Monday 23rd Feb – School reopens
 - Thursday 5th March – World Book day
 - W/C 9th March – Science Week
 - Monday 16th March – Our Science showcase 2.30pm
 - Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day and Redwood's Got Talent
 - Friday 20th March - Leanimals traveling zoo – Mini beasts visit school during afternoon
 - Friday 27th March – Mini Bugs ball – afternoon end of term celebration.

