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From The Headteacher.

We have seen so much joy in learning this half-term, mostly related to insects!

On 30th April, we were excited to have a visit from Lily from ZooLab. She brought an array of insects and small animals with her, much to the delight of the children. This linked with our topic, Minibeasts and Spring, where the children have begun to understand the concept of a lifecycle, with a particular focus on the lifecycle of a butterfly.

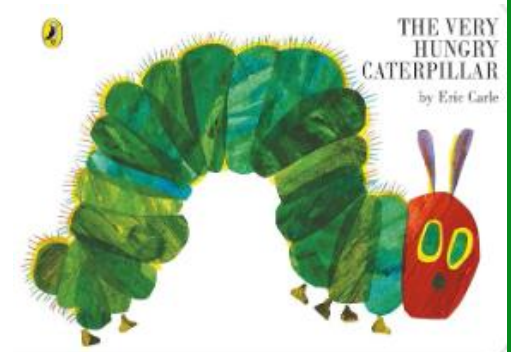
Our children have embarked on a delightful adventure through Eric Carle's classic, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". Our young learners have not only listened to the story but have engaged with it in a multitude of creative and educational ways. Inspired by the colourful illustrations of the caterpillar and the various foods he eats, the children created their own artwork. From painting and drawing to crafting caterpillars out of paper and recycled materials, their creativity has flourished.

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" is an excellent tool for introducing basic maths concepts. Our children practiced counting by keeping track of the caterpillar's meals and sequencing the days of the week as depicted in the story. These activities have made learning numbers and order not just educational but also fun.

The metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly is a central theme of the book. Our little scientists have explored this concept through hands-on activities in our garden and looking at lifecycles in general. Through story time sessions, role-play and discussions, the children have expanded their vocabulary and language skills. They have learned new words, practiced speaking in sentences, and developed better listening skills. Re-enacting the story has also boosted their confidence in expressing themselves.

Now the weather is warmer, we have also been in the garden searching for other creatures as part of our mini-beasts topic. It has been joyous to see the children's faces light up with glee as they find various creepy-crawlies in the shrubs or under rocks. Perhaps they can look for mini-beasts in your gardens or local parks during half term?

Have a wonderful half term break everyone. Best Wishes, Mrs Mackintosh



News from Baby (Ladybird) Class

It has come to the end of another amazing half-term. We have enjoyed some lovely sunshine, and the children have really relished exploring the outdoors with a range of activities.



We started this half-term continuing with the topic of mini beasts. The children enjoyed creating different mini beasts using a variety of art resources. A highlight was our visit from Zoolab, where the children were highly engaged throughout. The presenter introduced us to various mini beasts and animals, such as an African snail, millipede, stick insect, and snake. The children could closely observe each creature, and some were even brave enough to touch them. It was a wonderful experience, and thankfully there were no tears!



Our next topic was Vehicles and Transport. We used flashcards to introduce the children to different vehicles and their names. The children created lovely vehicles using various art materials and made tyre tracks with different coloured paints. For role play, we arranged chairs in a row to simulate a bus, and the children enjoyed singing "The Wheels on the Bus."



Next, we had Music Week, where the children expressed their emotions using musical instruments. They loved exploring different instruments and creating different sounds. They also enjoyed dancing to various genres of music and colouring sheets featuring musical instruments.

Our final topic, that we are currently doing, is Arts and Crafts Week. The children are using various art materials such as tissue paper, textured paper to create beautiful artwork. We will also experiment with paint, making hand and foot prints to explore different textures. This topic encourages creativity, imagination, and self-expression, which can boost the children's confidence and emotional well-being.

We've had a fantastic half-term filled with fun and learning, and we look forward to welcoming the children back after a restful break. Wishing you all a wonderful half-term! Mrs Sheikh & Miss Gabby4



News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



Another amazing half-term has come to a close, filled with exciting activities and wonderful learning experiences for the children.



At the beginning of this term, we explored the topic of Spring, focusing on Mini-beasts and the beloved story, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." The children learned about the life cycle of a butterfly and enjoyed retelling the caterpillar's six-day journey of eating food and transforming into a beautiful butterfly. This story helped them develop their visual memories through reading, watching, and engaging in related activities. During our



mini-beast investigation in the garden, we discovered a wiggly worm. The children also created various mini-beasts like caterpillars, bees, ladybirds, butterflies, and spiders using different materials. We had a special visit from Zoolab, who brought along some fascinating creepy crawlies. The children were thrilled to observe mini-beasts and other animals up close. They learned about the habitats and environments of these creatures and enjoyed meeting the slimy snail, jumping frog, crawling millipede with 200 legs, and the cold, slithering snake.



Our second topic was "Vehicles and Transport." The children played with different types of vehicles and learned their names and sounds. Through role-play activities, they developed their imagination and social skills. For example, they made a bus with chairs and bricks, sang "The Wheels on the Bus" while sitting on a climbing frame, and enjoyed making tyre marks using paint. They also created traffic lights with green and red paint and played stop-and-go games. Storytime included books about various vehicles and transport.

Our third topic was Music. The children loved singing, dancing, and exploring musical instruments. They made their own shakers and pianos and were fascinated by the dancing rice when they banged the drum. Dancing to songs

in different languages provided them with new musical experiences.

Currently, we are learning about colours. The children are mixing paints, sorting and matching colours, and exploring painting with different tools.

We were fortunate to have had some lovely sunny days this term, allowing the children to enjoy outdoor activities such as sand and water play, completing an obstacle course, and playing games like "What's the Time, Mr Wolf?"

Lastly, we want to thank you for all your appreciation and support. We wish you a wonderful half-term break! Miss Saimoon and Miss Zara.





News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)



This half term has whizzed by and, as ever, has been non-stop and busy! We welcomed Abeeha into our class and all the children have continued to be receptive learners and be kind to each other. We continued with our theme of insects and mini beasts and welcomed 'Zoolab' into school where the children enjoyed the delights of a snake, stick insect, a frog, a giant snail and many other creatures.

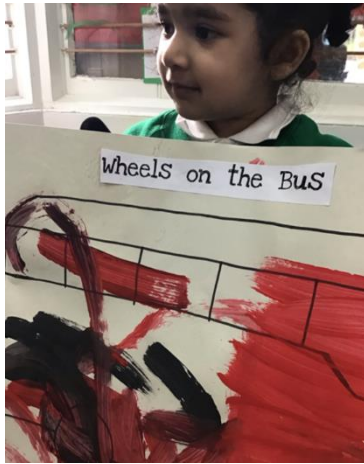


We hunted in our garden for mini beasts and, alas, only found worms and ants! We counted toy ladybirds and some of the children are able to match the total to the appropriate numeral as well as using 'Beebots' which introduced some directional technology where the children had to press the appropriate button to make it move forwards, backwards and sideways. I thought I would introduce the concept of camouflage this year and to my amazement some of the children can still recall this word 2 weeks later! We discussed where the insects would be best to hide and they understood the green would hide in leaves and the brown in the earth. We have also successfully planted and grown cress seeds and learnt the seeds need sun and water to grow.

The second half of this half term has seen us discuss transport and (please do ask your child) the children have been able to name many different modes. We have painted buses, made stop and go signs and responded to them whilst 'driving' in the garden as well as making a traffic light fruit salad. The children were able to sort into which modes of transport go on land, sea or air as well as place in descending order of size. Today will see us operate a car wash!

As always, thank you for your support and lovely comments and we wish you a happy bank holiday weekend and half term.



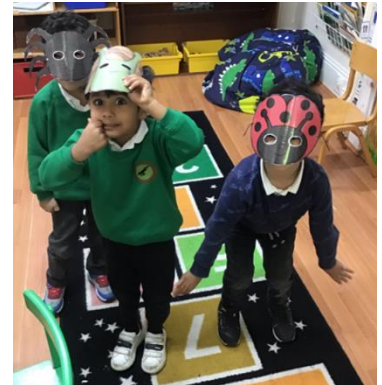


News From The Lower Nursery (Squirrels)

This half-term has flown by so quickly and we can hardly believe that it is almost over. Children have grown in confidence and we are proud to see them participating boldly in circle time and pretend play. Their bond has become stronger with time and we often hear them inviting each other to their homes and planning play dates.



We introduced weekend journals this half-term and it is such a joy to see children sharing their experiences with their friends. We have been using an emotion chart which has facilitated children's ability to not only express but also regulate their feelings as well. We started the term learning about the changes we see in Spring and children enjoyed sowing sunflower seeds which have now germinated into seedlings. Children learned about the life cycle of a sunflower and have taken special care of their little plants. The highlight of this term has been the visit from the Zoolab. Children got the opportunity to hold some minibeasts and small animals like a millipede, African snail, frogs, stick insects, gerbil and a snake. We built upon this amazing experience by taking them on a minibeast hunt in our garden where children found worms, spiders, bees and ladybirds. Children have enjoyed pretending to be minibeasts using masks.



Our next topic was transport where children learnt about the different modes of transportation and were thrilled to make hot air balloons. Children practised singing "Twinkle twinkle traffic lights" while learning about the rules of road safety. Children took a keen interest in dressing up as various different professionals for our topic "People who help us" and shared their aspirations and dreams for the future.

In our phonic lessons, children are now able to recognise all phonemes and many digraphs. Children have been practising blending CVC words and we are now able to read short sentences as they are able to recognise some high frequency words. They have been spotting rhyming words and writing the initial sounds of different objects.

Children have thoroughly enjoyed some of the new equipment in our garden. For our PE classes, we have worked on building their core muscles and gross motor skills by challenging them to lift crates and planks. In our cookery classes, our little chefs have followed various recipes to make cookies, wraps and cupcakes.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming our children back. Mrs Raza and Miss Gohill



News From The Upper Nursery (Tigers)

The first half of this Summer term has been a busy one, and we have managed to pack in a lot within these few weeks. We welcomed Insiya to our class, and the children have made her feel very welcome.



Continuing with our theme of 'Spring, Life Cycles, and Minibeasts,' the children have engaged in various creative activities. They painted butterflies, made ladybirds, spiders, snails, and dragonflies. They sowed sunflower seeds, cared for them, and observed their growth while learning about the plant life cycle. The children also created pictures depicting the various stages of a butterfly's life cycle and saw the egg and chrysalis of an Atlas Moth. Additionally, they participated in a picture sequencing activity to understand the life cycle of a frog.



The visit from Zoolab was the highlight of this term, and the children have continued to talk about this wonderful experience. They had the opportunity to handle minibeasts and other animals, learning about them first hand. They gently and calmly handled a snake, millipede, giant African snail, stick insect, and gerbil.

Our next topic was 'People Who Help Us & Transport.' The children dressed up as chefs, firemen, policemen, doctors, and hairdressers. They also took on the roles of pedestrians, cyclists, and car drivers to learn about road safety. Using construction toys, they built racing cars, aeroplanes, trucks, trains, and lorries.



During our 'Music Week,' the children engaged in playing musical instruments and listening to instrumental music. They had the opportunity to pluck the strings of a ukulele and a violin. In their art lesson, they made shakers and played them while listening to the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt."

A new addition to our outdoor play area has been tyres and planks, which the children enjoyed balancing on and connecting. They have continued to enjoy their cookery lessons and are becoming accomplished chefs. Additionally, they learned to give instructions to the Bee-Bots to move them to specific locations on the road mat.



The children have kept up with their Phonics and Maths work, making great progress. They have worked hard, participated in all activities with enthusiasm, and are becoming confident and independent learners.

We wish you all a wonderful half-term break! Mrs Kalsi & Mrs Ghatora.





Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term:

SUMMER TERM 2			
27 Half Term			
3 June	Farm Animals & Pets: Song: Old Macdonald Had a Farm. Mary had a little lamb. Baa Baa Black sheep 1 2 2 3 4 5 once I caught a fish alive, Little Bo Beep, This little Piggy Noisy Farm Father's day Cards	Willows Farm Visit Animals – to include: Farm Animals, Pets, Safari Old Macdonald Elmer Dear Zoo Animal Boogie Where's Spot Father's day Cards	Willows Farm Visit . Animals – to include: Farm Animals, Wild Animals. Incl Books – Tiger Who Came to Tea. What the Ladybird Heard. The Jungle Run Watch Out Bro's Coming. Giraffe's Can't Dance Father's day Cards
10 Father's Day 16 th June			
17			
24	Under the Sea. Once I caught a fish alive	Under the Sea – Book :Fidgety Fish Shark in the Park	Under the Sea – Tiddler Commotion in the Ocean Jolly Olly Octopus, Snail & Whale
1 July	Summer & Seaside	Summer & Seaside	Summer & Seaside
8 Ends 12 th			

Willows Farm Trip

A reminder that we have organised a trip to Willows Activity Farm, near St Albans Farm on **Tuesday 11th June**. This fits with our topic of Animals. Your child is invited, even if they do not normally attend on a Tuesday. The children will be travelling by coach with their teachers and volunteer parent helpers. The coach will leave the Welsh Congregational Church, Lower Road, **promptly at 9.00am** thus all children must be in school by **8.30 am**. We will leave the farm at 2pm so hope to be back at the Church by 3.00pm, depending upon traffic. Please collect your child from the Welsh Congregational Church, not school, except if they are staying to after school club of course.



Children should wear their uniform so we can easily identify them on the trip. Please ensure they have a packed lunch in a bag that can be disposed of after lunch, and a re-sealable water bottle. Put this all in their green school rucksack. The children will need to carry their own rucksacks so please be mindful of packing light items. Please pack a raincoat if the forecast is for rain and pack a sunhat if it is sunny. If they are prone to accidents, please send your child with a change of clothes and underwear just in case. Please let us know if your child suffers with travel sickness.

Sports Day

We would like to invite you and your families to join us on **Thursday 4th July**. Please arrive from 10.30a.m. ready for a 10.45 start. Please note that there are parking restrictions on Middle Road from 10am to 2pm, so ensure you leave enough time to find parking off The Hill.

We invite you to bring a picnic lunch for you and your child, and stay for lunch on the grass. No alcohol permitted. After lunch, at approximately 1' o'clock you are free to take your child home or leave them with us until your normal collection time.

If your child does not normally attend on a Tuesday, you are more than welcome to bring them in for this whole school event.

The babies aged under 2 years will not be participating in the sports events, but you are very welcome to come along to sit with your child to watch and then stay for the picnic.

Please ensure your child is wearing shorts, t-shirt, trainers and green school jumper, plus sun cream and sunhat.



Summer Uniform & Be Sun Safe

We hope the weather will be warmer when we return after the May break. A reminder that the boys can wear shorts and the girls a green gingham dress if they like.

On sunny days please do not forget to apply sun cream before school and pack some in their bag for topping up through the day. A green legionnaire's style sun hat is also essential.



Parent / Teacher Meetings

We will be producing a report in the last week of June. This will be issued by via the EYLog or email. Once you have your report, you are invited to make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss it if you wish.

Our Uniform Provider

<https://www.aceclothing.co.uk/products-school/roxeth-mead/uniform-3/boys-girls>

Please note that everything is made to order, so you need to allow 7-10 working days for the order to be ready.

National Smile Month

Between 13 May and 13 June 2024, the Oral Health Foundation will be raising awareness of important oral health issues with the theme: **Love Your Smile.**



GETTING CHILDREN INTERESTED IN THEIR ORAL HEALTH

It is not always easy, but it is essential to help your little ones build healthy habits which last a lifetime.

USE REWARD CHARTS

Let them choose a sticker to place on a reward chart every time they brush their teeth. Once it's full let them trade it in for a reward like a bedtime story or a treat - just not sweets!



BRUSHING APPS

Children nowadays are tech-savvy and there are lots of toothbrushing apps out there which are great for kids. One good example is BrushDJ, which was developed by a UK dentist to make brushing fun.



MAKE BRUSHING FUN

There are lots of good toothbrushes and toothpastes aimed at children which encourage them to brush their teeth, like singing toothbrushes and fruit flavoured toothpaste.



GET CREATIVE

Think outside the box. Let children brush the teeth of their toys, play dentist with them, sing songs and tell stories about brushing, and you can even give them a go at cleaning your teeth!



FOR A HEALTHY MOUTH THEY CAN BE PROUD OF, CHILDREN SHOULD...

- Brush their teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.
- Keep sugar consumption to mealtimes.
- Visit the dentist regularly, as often as they recommend.



Learn more about your oral health at

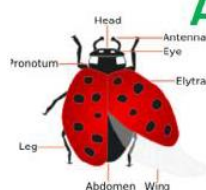
WWW.SMILEMONTH.ORG #SMILEMONTH

Suggested Activities for the Half Term Break:

Great Educational Websites:

Storytelling for Younger Pupils	https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/
Fun Science at Home	https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Science-Fun-at-Home
Art therapy ideas:	https://intuitivecreativity.typepad.com/expressiveartinspirations/100-art-therapy-exercises.html

Why not build your own Ladybird House?



A plastic bottle Ladybird House

Ladybirds are very useful creatures in the garden, eating all sorts of pests, especially aphids and greenfly that like to munch on my roses!.

You can make a simple, yet effective home for Ladybirds with just an old plastic bottle, a bit of string and some corrugated cardboard. You can use other cardboard, corrugated is best as the gaps are good places for the Ladybirds to lay their eggs.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MAY

Mon 27 to Fri 31st Half Term - Holiday Club available 28th to 31st

JUNE

Monday 3rd Children back following half term

Tuesday 11th All day Willows Farm Trip

Monday 24th End of Year Reports issued to parents this week

JULY

Thursday 4th 10.45 Sports Day & picnic lunch

Tuesday 9th 2pm Goodbye assembly to parents in Nursery Classes (Squirrels & Tigers). Parents free to take them home afterwards.

Wednesday 12th 12 noon Break up for Summer Holiday

Monday 15th Holiday Club available Monday 15th July to Friday 16th August

AUGUST

Friday 16th Last day of holiday club

Monday 19th to Friday 30th School Closed

SEPTEMBER

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd Staff Training and settling of new pupils only (by invitation)

Wednesday 4th New Term Starts 8am

TERM DATES

23-24

Half Term:

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Term Ends:

Friday 12th July at midday

Holiday club available Monday 15th July to Friday 16th August

TERM DATES

24- 25

Autumn Term 2024

Inset for Staff:

Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September

Term Begins:

Wednesday 4th September

Half Term:

Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November

Term Ends:

Wednesday 11th December at midday after the Nativity

Holiday Club – available

School Closed 2 weeks over Christmas

Spring Term 2025

Inset for Staff:

Monday 6th January

Term Begins:

Tuesday 7th January

Half Term:

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Term Ends:

Friday 28th March at midday

Summer Term 2025

Inset for Staff:

Tuesday 22nd April

Term Begins:

Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

Half Term:

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Term Ends:

Friday 11th July