



Dormice Class Summer Term Newsletter

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope you had a fantastic Easter break and enjoyed some quality family time. We are hopefully looking forward to some better weather this term as well as getting stuck back in to our learning with our fabulous new topic '**Our Wonderful World**'.

PSED Personal, social and emotional development

In PSED the children will be encouraged to take the ideas and feelings of others into account and to negotiate and compromise on ideas when planning activities and play.

We will be talking about our feelings towards different minibeasts as well as discussing the feelings of different characters in our stories.

We will be talking about how to treat minibeasts and the importance of being kind to all living things.



Communication and Language

We will be working really hard this term to encourage the children to speak clearly, showing an awareness of the listener. They will also be encouraged to use past, present and future forms correctly when speaking. The children will be encouraged to answer more complex questions to give more detail or further explanation during discussions and will enjoy listening to some new key texts including 'Here We Are', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'What the Ladybird Heard'.



Physical Development

Throughout the summer term, the children will have daily opportunities to practise their fine motor skills and handwriting by taking part in a variety of activities and games involving tools such as tweezers, spoons and scissors. As the weather continues to improve, even more time will be spent exploring our outdoor space and playing games involving throwing, catching, running and climbing to name but a few. The children will also be taking part in weekly balance bike sessions. Each Monday the children will have a Cycle me TOTS session which will be great for the children.



Phonics

We will spend the summer term recapping all the graphemes, phonemes and tricky words that we have learnt so far. The children will play lots of different games and activities until they are really good at applying these in words.

We will now move on to Phase 4 where they will learn to apply their phonic knowledge to read and spell longer words with a particular focus on adjacent consonant e.g. fl, sp, nd etc and identifying word endings e.g. -ing, -es

Phonics
ee ur ow
wh y au

Writing

This term we will be continuing to provide exciting opportunities for children to write in their play. Lots of the children are beginning to choose to write independently now which is fantastic. We will also be doing lots of writing in response to our topic and stories including making our own non-fiction books about minibeasts and writing a description of how to look after the environment.

The children's handwriting is developing really well and they will continue to take part in daily handwriting sessions with a focus on ensuring all letters within words are formed correctly and are a consistent shape and size.



Reading

This term we will be exploring lots of books around our theme of 'the natural world', including lots of non-fiction texts. The children will be encouraged to talk about the differences between fiction and non-fiction texts. In response to stories, the children will be encouraged to make predictions about what they think will happen next and retell the stories using puppets and props.

Please continue to read at home every day. The best readers in our class are those that read regularly at home. The more practise that children get to read at home, the more confident and fluent they will become.



Mathematics

Following our 'White Rose' maths scheme we will be continuing our maths learning this term by using all the fantastic number skills that we have embedded so far, including counting, subitising, ordering and comparing, and applying them to numbers to 20 and beyond. We will be looking for patterns in numbers and will be using them to add and subtract. We will also be introducing new concepts such as doubling and halving and odd and even numbers.

We will be looking at shape and pattern more closely through our work on spatial reasoning and will enjoy playing lots of maths based games.



Understanding the World

This half term sees the arrival of our caterpillars. The children will enjoy watching the caterpillars grow and change before releasing them as butterflies just before half term. We will hopefully be visited by some other animals too. We will be reading texts about growing and comparing and planting different seeds. We will be learning about minibeast habitats and making our own 'bug house' as well as learning about the features of different minibeasts and begin to sort and classify them. We will also be taking part in 'The Great Sunflower Challenge!'



Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be adding an additional role play area- a garden centre! The children will enjoy buying flowers and seeds and making their own to use in their play.

The children will have the opportunity to explore different media such as paint, collage and transient art materials. They will use different techniques to create different minibeast art works. This term we will also be looking at and discussing some pieces by different famous artists including Van Gogh and Matisse

We will be listening to 'The Flight of the Bumblebee' and making our own music for different minibeasts.



Reading Books

Please remember that children will bring home their reading scheme book every FRIDAY but it will only be given if they have a plastic wallet and reading record in school ON THAT DAY. If you have lost either of these things please let us know so that we can replace the. Books need to be returned in order for a new one to be allocated.

Can you help??

We are always on the look out for donations of items that you may be parting with that we can use in class. This term we are looking for...

- *garden items such as seeds, flowers, tools, gardening magazines, mini watering cans
- *milk crates, planks of wood, lengths of guttering, logs and tyres for our outdoor classroom
- *'Real' items for our home corner e.g. kitchen items, clean baby and pet accessories

Clothing

Please remember that weather at this time of year can still be very changeable! Do keep an eye on the weather forecast and ensure your child has suitable clothing in school including a coat, sun hat, sun cream etc. As always please make sure EVERYTHING is clearly named.

Thank you for your support so far. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to one of us at any time.

Miss Payne, Mrs Panesar, Mrs Wise and Mrs Watson