

Year Group: Reception

Topic Title: Curious Critters

1. Key Vocabulary

Minibeasts - Small creatures like worms, snails, insects and spiders. The scientific term for them is 'invertebrates' - a creature without a backbone.

Insects - Insects are small animals with six legs, a hard outer shell called an exoskeleton, antennae and a body with three segments. Often they have wings.

Life cycle - A series of stages a living thing goes through during its whole life.

Metamorphosis - A process of changes that some animals go through to become adults.

Larva - a young wingless form of many insects that hatches from an egg.

Chrysalis - A moth or butterfly pupa that is enclosed in a hardened protective case.

Cocoon - a covering or case made by some animals to protect themselves or their young as they develop into adults.

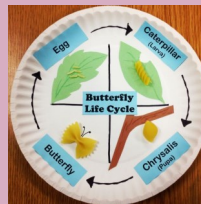
Fiction - A made up story.

Non-Fiction - Something that tells you true facts and information about the world around you.

Species - A group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce.

3. Expressive Art and Design

Children will use a range of tools and techniques including play dough, salt dough, natural resources and junk modelling, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. They will create minibeast models and representations of their habitats as well as exploring different ways to show lifecycles through art. They will share their creations, explaining the process they have used.



Children will explore songs and dances related to our topic, learning how to sing together in a group while introducing actions, and to crawl like an ant, slither like a worm and flutter like a butterfly.

7. Personal, Social and Emotional Education

Through our stories of the week children will discuss how they can show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly. They will consider the feelings of others by relating to book characters and their peers in circle time.



They will be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. We will talk about these ideas in circle times. As part of our RSE curriculum we will talk about the importance of building strong, trustworthy friendships and how friends make us feel.



2. Curriculum Knowledge

This topic looks at a range of minibeasts and other small creatures.

Children will learn their habitats, diets, behaviour and life-cycles.

Children will learn about the role of different creatures in the environment.

Children will experience fiction and non-fiction books and information texts about animals.

Children will learn a range of new vocabulary linked to the topic and will be encouraged to use these words independently in speech and in writing.

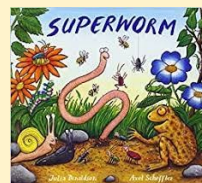
Children will observe the natural world around them closely, making observations of the things they see.



	Enterprise	Communication	Well-Being	Possibilities	Environment
Drivers:	Using decision making and data handling skills to discover the most popular minibeast in the class.	Answering how and why questions to present learnt topic information to the class.	Time to reflect on our own personal positive qualities as we think why we make a good friend in our RSE lessons.	Exploring the job of a biologist. Learning about prominent and influential biologists who work in the field of animals.	Looking after our local habitats to protect minibeasts. Litter picking and making animal feeders.

4. Communication, Language and Literacy

Though our books of the week children will explore fiction and non-fiction texts. They will use these as a stimulus to write fact files, descriptions and speech bubbles using their phonic knowledge to write words and to write in sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces so that their work can be read by others.

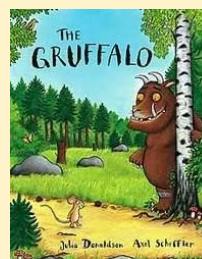
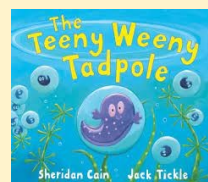


Children will develop their comprehension skills in reading by anticipating what could happen next in stories based on what we already know. They will also use recently learnt vocabulary from fiction and non-fiction texts independently when speaking and writing.



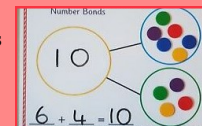
Children will be encouraged to ask questions to deepen their understanding of the topic as they learn new information.

Children will be encouraged to speak confidently in small groups and to the class to present work they are proud of and to share their topic learning, expressing their ideas and feelings in full sentences.



5. Mathematics

Children will work on securing their knowledge and understanding of numbers to 10, including investigating different ways to make each number. This will be extended to explore numbers to 20.



Children will continue learn number bonds to 5, recalling them automatically and exploring number bonds to 10 further.

Children will use mathematical vocabulary including 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to' to compare quantities.



Children will explore even and odd numbers and look at doubling and halving facts with practical resources.

Children will talk through the mathematical processes with accurate language to secure their knowledge and understanding.

6. Understanding of the World

Through our topic children will explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of minibeasts around them. They will learn about their features and role in the environment.



Children will learn about the lifecycles of animals and explore how animals change through their lives. Through looking at lifecycles children will talk about the concept of past and present.

