

Broomhill First School



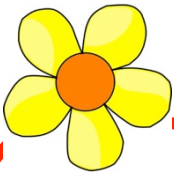
This half term's topic for the Big Owls is

Down at the Bottom of the Garden

Children will explore the outdoors as they search at the bottom of our garden...

Who knows what they might find!

June - July 2019



Understanding the World

Children will learn about the natural world around them. They will hunt for mini beasts and learn about their life cycles. Children will observe minibeasts in a bug laboratory and we will watch some real caterpillars transform into butterflies in our classroom before we set them free in the garden. Children will also make observations of plants and discuss how plants change as they grow.

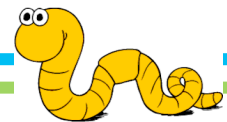


Communication, Language and Literacy

Children will study the author Eric Carle as they explore a range of his stories such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Very Busy Spider'. Story sacks will be available so that children can retell the stories with props. We will also use Talk 4 Writing skills to make story maps and retell the story of the Hungry Caterpillar before making up our own new versions. Children will also have fun writing minibeast riddles as they give clues to guess their creature and they will keep a diary to observe changes in our classroom caterpillars. They will also participate in daily phonics activities to extend their reading and writing skills.

Mathematics

As children search for minibeasts, they will collect data by completing tallies and showing the information in pictograms. Children will compare the length of caterpillars and worms using good vocabulary then they will begin to use different units to measure the length more accurately. More practical maths will allow children to learn about capacity as they fill plant pots with soil or fill containers to water plants in the garden. We will also look at the symmetry of butterflies and count spots on a ladybird to help remember more number bonds.



Physical Development

Children will be involved in Sports Day on **Wed 26th June** so they will be practising races and team games on the school field. They will also take part in weekly yoga sessions where they will move and stretch like insects through different stories. Outdoors, children will be able to lift and carry logs to make a minibeast home and they will dig in the garden to plant seeds and find treasures. Fine motor skills will be encouraged through activities such as sorting seeds with tweezers and fingers, weaving spider webs and rolling play dough worms. **Please ensure your child has their PE kit on their peg every day. Make sure all kit is labelled with their name (including PE shoes).**

Trips - Reception children have another trip to our local care home, Heatherdale on Tuesday 25th June.

This is run by Sensory Connexions to promote good relationships with the elderly.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will learn about famous artists as they recreate 'The Snail' by Matisse, 'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh or 'Flowers' by Andy Warhol. They will make lots of minibeast crafts and try out new art techniques. Songs and rhymes will be used to support the children's knowledge of minibeasts. Children will be able to use their imaginations as they engage in role play in the garden centre, the bug lab, Percy the Park Keeper's Hut or the fairy garden.

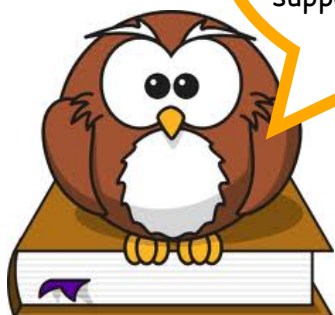


If you have any items of interest to help with our topic, bring them in so your child can share them with the class.



Summer Fair

Come along on Thursday
20th June at 4:30pm to
support our Summer Fair.



Helping at Home

Looking - Hunt for minibeasts in your own gardens or out at the park. Look under rocks and logs or dig in the soil.

Gardening - Encourage your child to help you look after plants in the garden or plant a seed in a pot to look after indoors. Talk about how the plant changes as it grows.

Reading - Please read regularly with your child and note this in their reading record. Expand their reading with other children's books at home. Practise reading the word cards and encourage your child to remember the spellings too.

Maths - Measure the length of things at home. Find shorter/longer things. Measure things out by counting footsteps. Can your child estimate the number of footsteps before measuring?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be encouraged to care for living things. They will work in teams to get a job done just like ants and bees. They will discuss feelings in relation to different stories such as 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird'. Children will be supported through the transition process as they prepare to move into Year 1. They will be involved in a transition day (Thursday 4th July) where they will spend time in the Finches class with their new teacher.



Big Owls are doing very well at coming into school on their own and this is helping prepare them for moving up to Year 1. Please ensure they are in the line on time and continue to say goodbye on the playground once the bell has rung, so your child can come into school independently.

Lunch

Due to a government initiative, school lunches for reception children are free this year. Having a school lunch provides excellent learning opportunities for trying new foods, using cutlery and developing table manners. However, should you prefer to provide a healthy packed lunch instead, then please let us know. All children have the chance to sit on 'Top Table' each Wednesday for great lunchtime behaviour.



Water Bottles

Send your child's water bottle into school with fresh water each day.



Sun Cream

Please apply sun cream to your child **before** they come to school. A named bottle of sun cream can be kept in their drawer to reapply themselves if you let us know.



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me. Thank you for all the help and support you continue to give us. Thanks very much for reading this information letter.

Mrs Haves

