

Welcome to Little Willows Nursery

MARVELLOUS MINIBEASTS

We will be focusing our learning this half-term on **Marvellous Minibeasts**. This learning poster gives you a flavour of the types of adult-led learning opportunities that will happen this half-term. These opportunities will be enhanced by children's emerging interests.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT-*INSPIRING CONSIDERATION*

We will spend time considering the fact that mini beasts are living creatures and discuss ways to look after them and the places in which they inhabit. We will imagine that we are tiny mini beasts and identify what kinds of things might frighten us if we were that small. We will consider ourselves as 'gentle giants' when working with small animals. Teamwork features highly in the lives of many mini beasts. We will look at which minibeast work together as a team, highlighting the importance of working together to achieve things that we cannot get done alone.

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE-*INSPIRING CREATIVITY*

We will be building vocabulary banks related to minibeasts and learning a variety of rhymes linked to this theme.

We will continue to build our knowledge of Phase One Phonics.

How can you help at home: Whilst searching for minibeasts in the garden or whilst out for a walk, can you describe where you find them e.g., under a stone, between the blades of grass, on top of the log?

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT-*INSPIRING COLLABORATION*

We provide daily opportunities for children to practise and refine their fine and gross motor skills both indoors and out. Our dough disco sessions form part of this provision. A dough disco session is essentially a workout with dough for developing upper arm and finger strength. During our PE sessions (Wednesday) we will be building up skills and practising team games ready for our Early Years Sports Day.

How can you help at home: Can you thread beads or lengths of a straw onto a pipe cleaner or length of string to make a caterpillar?

LITERACY-*INSPIRING COMMUNICATION*

We will be exploring a range of books based on the theme of minibeasts. These include: *What the Ladybird Heard*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Very Busy Spider and Snail Trail*. Children will have a range of writing opportunities including the creation of their own minibeast books.

How can you help at home: Can you find a fact about a minibeast?

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT-*INSPIRING COMMITMENT*

Ladybirds and butterflies will provide the opportunity to count different arrangements of spots and the opportunity to discover the art of symmetry.

How can you help at home: Can you look for and talk about patterns and shapes within nature?

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD – *INSPIRING CURIOSITY*

We will build upon the children's interest in minibeast hunts and study what we are fortunate to find. We will explore what we think an insect is and search for accurate facts. We will also explore the life cycle of a frog, butterfly and ladybird.

EXPRESSIVE ART & DESIGN-*INSPIRING CRAFTSMANSHIP*

We will design and make our own bugs using a choice of materials and equipment. We will experiment with different paint techniques and look at the work of Kandinsky and Matisse in relation to our theme.

How can you help at home: Can you make a representation of a minibeast? You could reuse materials or find natural materials to create your minibeast.



LITTLE
WILLOWS
Nursery