

BANANAS-T TERMLY OVERVIEW April 2021

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you have had an enjoyable Easter break with your child. We have exciting news to share; we have a new member of the team and welcome Melissa, who some of you know well from Preschool. Melissa will be working with us on a Monday and Tuesday.

Our topic this term is going to be all about Minibeasts. This is the perfect topic for late Spring and early Summer, providing opportunities for play and investigation in outside spaces. Hopefully we will have some warmer weather so that we can all spend lots of time outdoors. Looking at minibeasts enables us to learn about how we care for other creatures and for our environment, as well as plenty of counting and sequencing activities. We hope to visit a local park for a bug hunt.

Phonics The sounds (phonemes) we will be focusing on this term are h, sh, r, j, v, y & w. As you can see, we will be introducing digraphs to the children this term (2 letters representing 1 sound such as sh). To support phonics at home you could listen to The Phonics Song KIDSTV123 [zed version], Jack Hartman songs, for example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUI5-AphjMg> and Mr Thorne does Phonics with the puppet Geraldine Giraffe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oiu_YmW_Efk

Mathematics To support your child at home, the following links for songs and games may be useful: 10 little numbers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk9Yt1PqQiw>, Numbers song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sHOH_zsRI4, Count to 20 and workout <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVzXKfr6e8>, online interactive games/activities - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> In addition, the following activities linked to the theme will support and develop children's mathematical skills: minibeast counting games - counting spots, legs, and wings, sorting minibeasts with legs/spots/wings, engaging with repeating patterns by threading beads (2/3 colours) to make a caterpillar, measuring quantities in cooking, exploring sequencing by looking at life cycles and sharing stories such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and finally, experience symmetry by creating butterflies using paint.

PE Please can you ensure that your child has PE kit in school as we continue with our PE sessions with the Tennyson Road coach on a Wednesday afternoon.

See the information below for ideas on how to support our new topic at home:

Spiders Go on a web walk, looking for spiders' webs around the garden and local environment. Look at real spiders in see-through containers. Share the story Aargh, spider! Sing a selection of spider related songs and rhymes e.g. Incy wincy etc. Sieve plastic spiders from sand. Make a handprint spider (talc on black paper or black paint on white card). Make an Oreo spider.



Snails Listen to the stories 'The snail and the Whale' and 'Snail trail' by Ruth Brown. Use pipe cleaners to create own 'snail' and use to act out the story. Look at real snails moving on Perspex. Make cheese 'roll-ups'. Make 3D snails using clay or play dough. Use Henri Matisse's 'The Snail' picture as inspiration for own collage.



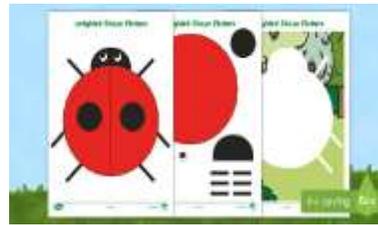
Worms Listen to the story of Superworm. Engage with sensory activities such as 'worms in 'mud' (cocoa and corn flour with jelly snakes). Make a wormery. Use tweezers and pegs to collect worms (small pieces of pipe cleaners) and transfer to a container. Engage with mud painting using a range of brushes (thick/thin). Add pots of water to change consistency. Sort 'worms' (pipe cleaners/jelly snakes) by a given criteria such as length/colour - pipe cleaner worms.



Caterpillars & Butterflies Experience and listen to the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar and engage with the story by exploring a sensory tray as an adult retells the story. Use the website 'TOPMARKS' - Minibeasts: find out about insects and the life cycle of a butterfly. Also, on TOPMARKS caterpillar ordering/caterpillar count. Make butterfly paintings. Create a 'caterpillar' using balloon dipped in paint. Colour match caterpillar themed pom poms.



Ladybirds Make ladybird biscuits - red icing and chocolate drop spots on a biscuit. Make a pebble ladybird, choose a pebble to paint and add googly eyes. Paint with varnish. Sort given objects by colour - black and red. Use large circular pieces of black and red card. Create a 2D ladybird picture (<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>). Go on a ladybird hunt in the garden. Take a photo of a ladybird as a visual prompt. Use magnifying glasses/tubes as telescopes.



Bees Create a bottle top beehive and handprint bee. Create own bee hives - provide a range of natural materials and photographs of bee hives for provocation. Could use hexagon shapes to create a 'hive' for their bee. Share the song 'The bees go buzzing' by Super Simple Songs - bees go buzzing one by one, two by two, three by three etc.



Bottle Top Beehive & Hand Print Bees



We hope that we have provided you with lots of fun activities to keep you busy at home. I'm certain you will be very resourceful and find your own activities too - please do share them with us! We love trying out new ideas. Please also take photographs of your children's learning and development at home and we shall look forward to sharing these together in circle time. Have fun!

With many thanks,

The Bananas class team