

Overview: This half term we will be learning about life cycles of different animals and plants. The children will learn the different stages of the life cycle through the stories of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Teeny Weeny Tadpole'. We are looking forward to the arrival of caterpillars in the classrooms to observe any changes. We are lucky to have another arrival of eggs at the beginning of the half term and looking forward to finding out if anything will hatch out of the eggs! During this half term the children will visit the school pond to see if they can find any sign of new life in a different habitat.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

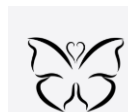
Our focus this half term is learning about having a 'healthy mind', thinking about different feelings and emotions. The children will learn that people can experience a range of feelings and will be able to name and recognise those feelings. The children will learn the importance of recognising what others might be feeling and that this can contribute towards behaviour.

Physical Development

The children will continue to have a PE session with Coach Ashley each week, focussing on learning the skills involved to play a team game. In our other PE session, the children will learn to improve their balancing skills with a range of apparatus e.g. balancing a ball on a tennis racket. They will also learn to throw objects at a target, developing their hand eye co ordination. There will be a variety of opportunities for children to develop their fine motor skills during their independent learning time. The children will continue to develop their handwriting skills.

Communication and Language/Literacy

The children will explore a range of fiction, non fiction and poems related to butterflies, caterpillars, frogs, tadpoles and chicks. They will be introduced to new vocabulary e.g. caterpillar, butterfly, life cycle, chrysalis, frog, tadpole, symmetrical and use this within their play. The children will have the opportunity to retell the stories using props, puppets and small world resources. The children will continue to enjoy singing a variety of songs and rhymes and learn some new ones based on our topic. The children will explore the texts 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Teeny Weeny Tadpole' this half term.



Phonics/

In phonics this half term the children will be reviewing and applying their knowledge of the Phase 2 and 3 phonemes: (please see Seesaw and reading records for the information about these sounds)

Week 1: reading CVCC words (e.g. went, pond) and the new tricky words said, so, have, like

Week 2: reading CVCC and CCVC words (e.g. plug) and the new tricky words some, come, love, do

Week 3: reading CCVCC and CCCVCC words (e.g. stamp, strict)

Week 4: reading longer words (e.g. blossom, chimpanzee) compound words (e.g. windmill) and the new tricky words there, when, what, one

Week 5: reading words ending in -ing (swimming, twisting) words ending in -ed (grunted) words ending in -est (e.g. softest) and new tricky words out, today

Week 6 - review and assessment week.

The children will continue to use their developing phonic knowledge to write lists, label pictures and write sentences.

Maths

During this half term, the children will be consolidating key skills of subitising (instantly recognising small quantities), counting, sorting, matching, comparing and ordering numbers to 10. The children will be learning to build and identify numbers to 20 using a range of resources e.g. tens frames, cubes, bead strings and numicon. The children will learn that larger numbers are composed of full 10s and part of the next 10. The children will then use their knowledge of shapes to fill given spaces using rotation to find shapes that fit. We will then be using positional vocabulary to describe where shapes are in relation to one another. The children will finish the half term beginning to learn about adding and taking away using practical resources and stories to support their understanding of the mathematical concepts.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will practise their skills of drawing using graded pencils by making observational drawings of the caterpillars and butterflies we will have in the classrooms. The children will learn to match colours and look at a variety of different patterns. During their independent learning time the children will have the opportunity to practise collage techniques and mixing colours.

How you can support at home

Please read with your child as often as you can. Sharing a variety of texts at home is important for developing the children's vocabulary and understanding.

Practise the sounds that the children have been learning at school. We will be focussing on phase 3 digraphs, trigraphs and tricky words so please continue to revise these at home. You can encourage your child to go on a sound or tricky word hunt around the house, use sound cards to make words and think of a sentence with that word in.

Please keep checking Seesaw as we will continue to use this to communicate what we are learning and how you can discuss and talk about our learning in school at home with your child.

Engage your child with the topic learning at home by visiting the library and looking at books; reading topic related books at home; use the internet to find out information.

Hiltingbury Heroes: Learner for Life

This half term, children will focus on the skills of Sydney Gorilla and being an independent researcher. The children will learn how to find out information from their peers, books and using the internet safely.



Understanding of the World

Our focus this half term is learning about life cycles. We will be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and the life cycle of a frog, focusing on the changes that these animals go through. We will have our own caterpillars in each class and observe the changes that we notice happening. We will visit the school pond this half term to look for tadpoles and frogs. We will also be learning about the life cycle of a plant and observing the changes in the seeds we have already planted. The children will also spend some time learning about the King's Coronation, finding out information about King Charles.

RE

Our RE focus this half term is the concept of 'special', we will be exploring this through learning about special clothes and why certain clothes are special to different people.

Reminders and Key Dates

The children will begin to use the KS1 playground to support the transition into Year 1.

Friday 5th May - Coronation celebrations

Thursday 25th May - Community afternoon

Friday 26th May - INSET day