



Rabbit Class Newsletter

Term 5 April 2023



Welcome back to a new term!

In this newsletter you will find information on what we are studying this term as well as general information and key dates for your diary. As ever, should you have any questions, do contact us via Classdojo or, if a quick query, catch us at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Some of the exciting books we will be exploring this term:



Our topic this term is 'Minibeasts' In this topic the children learn about the life cycles of living things and begin to describe these processes. We explore the world around us and discuss the ways in which we can help to look after our environment. We investigate different minibeasts, enjoy minibeast hunts and visit an outdoor education centre where we also get the opportunity to do some pond dipping.

We will explore the stories of the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Bad-Tempered Ladybird, What the Ladybird Heard, Mad About Minibeasts as well as a selection of non-fiction texts.

We will also be observing our very own caterpillars change into butterflies and creating our own wormeries. We will be learning how to draw in the style of Eric Carle and looking at the artist Matisse as we recreate his famous snail picture in collage.

The children will use Talk for Writing actions to help them to learn and retell stories based on a minibeast theme. They will use props and puppets to support their story telling and begin to create their own stories. Within our Forest School sessions the children will continue exploring the forest and we will be investigating minibeasts in our own forest, making bug hotels for different insects. This will go alongside the children freely exploring the forest, den building, tree climbing, mud sliding and enjoying the forest hot chocolate.

Key experiences: We get to start the term off with a visit to Horton Kirby Environmental Centre where we enjoy minibeast hunting and pond dipping.

Key Celebrations:

Earth Day 22nd April

St George's Day 23rd April

May Day 1st May

King's Coronation 6th May

Outdoor Classroom Day 18th May

World Bee Day 20th May



Discrete Teaching Programmes

Maths

We follow 'White Rose Maths' plans. This term the topics are 'To 20 and beyond' and 'First, Then, Now'. We will be looking at building numbers beyond 10, counting patterns, spatial reasoning (shape manipulation) addition and subtraction number problems.

Literacy

We will be continuing with the Little Wandle phonics programme. Please see the table below which shows what will be taught this term. Information on the phonics learning and ways of helping your child with their reading will be posted weekly on google classrooms. Please make sure you have a read of the weekly newsletter which updates you on your child's learning and there are also activities / games to help your child reinforce their learning. Please continue practising reading all the tricky words taught so far.

	Phase 4	New tricky words
Week 1	short vowels CVCC	said so have like
Week 2	short vowels CVCC CCVC	some come love do
Week 3	short vowels CCVCC CCCVC CCCVCC longer words	were here little says
Week 4	longer words compound words	there when what one
Week 5	root words ending in: -ing, -ed /t/, -ed /id/ /ed/ -est	out today

RE

Our big questions for RE this term are 'What stories are special and why?' and 'What can we learn from Old Testament stories?' Children will learn stories from the Old Testament and be able to recall stories about trust and promises. The children will be able to talk about the value of 'Trust' and what it means.

PE

On a Tuesday will be having outdoor games lessons – learning new team games and using a variety of PE equipment. Children will learn how to throw foam javelins, use mini hurdles and run relay races. On a Thursday we will be refining our ball skills and learning a range of simple ball games which incorporate all the skills we have learnt over the past term. Children need to come to school in their PE kits on a Tuesday and Thursday.

Additional information: Reading books will continue to be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. Children will read in a group within class and have phonic / handwriting lessons daily. Home learning will be set on a Friday via Google Classroom detailing what we have been learning along with ideas of how you can support your child at home. Library will continue to run on a **MONDAY** after school.

Please ensure outdoor waterproofs are in school for our forest school sessions on a Monday and Friday. Please only wear trainers on Tuesdays and Thursday's. School shoes should be worn at all other times.

Can we also remind parents that children should only bring WATER into school. Bottles are refilled in class if necessary. Squash when spilt leaves a sticky stain on the carpet. Can we also remind you NO chocolate, nuts or crisps for snack.

Key dates/information

17th April – Trust Development Day (school closed to pupils)

18th April – Term 5 starts

21st April – Crazy hair day in school

24th and 26th April – Parent Consultations - Details to follow

25th April – Class trip to Horton Kirby Environmental Centre

5th May – Coronation celebrations in school – more details to follow

25th May – Sharing assembly for Rabbit Class parents 2.30pm School Hall

26th May – Last day of term.

