



Sunflower Class Newsletter: Term 5 April 2025

Welcome back to Sunflower Class, after the Easter break.

Topic: Our main topic and themes this term are "What's happening in the garden" and "Mini beasts" Our learning challenges will be: "*How do living things change and grow*" and "*What creatures can we find outdoors*" and "*Where do they live*".

Please continue to send in your child's bookbag, **twice** a week, so that they can choose two books for you to read with them at home. A little comment regarding their enjoyment of the books can be noted in their reading record. **All children** should now have a book bag.

All planning for this term is displayed on the office noticeboard and a copy of the curriculum map, newsletter and weekly plan are displayed on our classroom window. You will be given a paper copy of the curriculum map and Sunflower termly newsletter in Week 2. Please ensure that you have signed up to "Parent Pay" to receive school newsletters and keep up to date with school news via the school website and our class page.



Information:

- Spend time reading and sharing books at home. You can find some useful information about the importance of reading on: oxfordowl.co.uk and booktrust.org.uk/bathbookbed. Complete your child's reading record with a short comment, in their book bag, every time you share a story, borrowed from school.
- Wellcomm Speech and Language intervention groups will begin again this term.
- Continue to practise self- dressing skills with your child at home, especially **taking off** and **putting on** shoes, socks and tights. The children are required to do this on a Wednesday when we use the school hall for PE.
- The children play in the garden every day, and in all weather. Please make sure that you send your child to school with an outdoor jacket. Your child will need to bring a **named** sun hat (**School tops and cardigans should also be named**) when the weather gets warmer. Children can wear old clothes for " Muddy Thursday".
- **£2.00 donation for snack** for this term is now due. **This is now paid via Parent Pay**. Thank you to parents who contributed last term. This donation covers part of our daily snack and ingredients for our weekly cooking.
- Please let us know of any updates with- prescribed medicines/dietary needs/telephone numbers. If your child is absent from school, you need to let the school office know, either by phone or email.

Important Dates for Term 5:

- Tuesday 22nd April - Term 5 begins
- Friday 23rd May - Last day of term
- Monday 2nd June - INSET day
- Tuesday 3rd June - Term 6 begins



FUN AT HOME IDEAS!

- Share stories about Minibeasts at home and talk about story characters, settings, beginnings and endings
- Make up a story bag with props for a favourite minibeast story e.g. "The Very Hungry caterpillar"
- Go on minibeast hunts in your garden or in the park. See how many mini beasts you can name
- Make some spiders and snails from playdough or salt dough
- Talk about life cycles and look for frog spawn and frogs in ponds or woodland streams.
- Plan a family visit to a Garden Centre and try and name some of the beautifully coloured flowers. Look for the tallest and smallest flowers. Choose a packet of seeds to take home to plant in a planter. When we send home your sunflower and bean seedlings, plant them in your garden and watch how fast they grow.
- Set up a digging area outdoors and have fun with buckets, spoons, spades, trucks and diggers
- Grow some vegetables in your garden and read "Oliver's Vegetables" and "Oliver's Fruit Salad" by Vivian French.
- Look at non fiction books about life cycles and minibeasts
- Go for lots of walks and look for wild flowers, blossom and new growth on shrubs and trees
- Visit Faringdon Library and borrow some books about minibeasts, gardening or Spring time
- Plan a visit to the Ashmolean Museum and book a minibeast discovery session
- Have fun making and painting symmetrical patterns on butterfly wings
- See how far you can count and think about the numbers from 1 to 5 and what they look like
- Continue to look for and name 2D and 3D shapes in the environment
- Count how many legs different minibeasts have
- Make little thumb print ladybirds with red paint and use a black pen to draw their head, legs and spots
- Print a mini beast colouring or counting sheet from <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>
- Look at gardening magazines and choose different pictures to practise cutting and sticking. **All of the children** need to practise their cutting and sticking skills.
- Practise writing your name, every week. Think about the shape and rhyme of each letter.
- Complete some jigsaw puzzles - you might have some life cycle or minibeast puzzles
- Play board games together to practise counting and taking turns.
- Arrange to have a picnic with friends and make sandwiches and cakes
- Talk about friendships and how to make new friends
- You could plan a very special family day out at half term. You could go to London and visit some of the many places of interest.

