

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Humans and life cycles:** human, face, hair, leg, elbow, arm, head, toes, ear, hands, eye, fingers, ankle, wrist, hips, back, knee, mouth, nose, bones, teeth, skin, animal, fish, birds, change, baby, young, old, past, now, future, life cycle.

**Minibeasts:** Life cycle, grow, change, tadpole, froglet, frog, larva, caterpillar, chrysalis, cocoon, minibeast, ant, spider, worm, snail, habitat, similarity, difference, compare, habitat, home, legs, wings, thorax, abdomen, antennae.

**The past:** Old, new, nowadays, the past, different, similar, young, baby, child, adult, grow, change, life cycle, Mum, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Sister, Brother.

**RE:**

This half term we will be beginning our new topic 'To the ends of the earth'. We will learn about the importance of Ascension day and the celebration of Pentecost through scripture, stories, role play and music. We will look at the Catholic Church and both our parish and school community. We will think of ways we can all try to come together, pray together, care for each other and share with each other as part of these communities.

**Past and present:**

We are thinking about the past, the present and the future. We are looking forward to seeing photos of our parents when they were children and exploring a historical loan box of old items. We are making simple timelines and discussing how human beings change as they grow.

**The Natural World:**

We will be exploring using all our senses, making observations and learning new vocabulary. Reception will notice similarities and differences between minibeasts, discuss the life cycle of the caterpillar and enjoy watching this happen in real time.

**People Culture and communities:**

(Not covered specifically in this focus).

**Technology:**

Children will continue to use our Promethean Smartboard and ipads. We will take part in a QR code quiz to find out information about minibeasts and use talking tins and ipads to record our observations of our caterpillars growing.

**Moving and Handling:**

**Fine Skills** – We will continue with pre-cursive handwriting sessions and teach further capital letters. We will focus upon making our writing smaller and writing on the line.

**Gross Skills** – In PE children will be practising their athletic skills. They will be building up key skills of jumping, landing and throwing, working towards combining these to perform a circuit of activities. We will also be creating and performing a short dance based on creatures under the sea.

**BIG Question: 'What makes our World so wonderful?'**

Our children will be learning about the wonderful world around them, including an introduction to the human life cycle, an exploration into minibeast life cycles and developing an appreciation of growth across a period of time.



**Cultural Capital:**

We are particularly looking forward to helping our visiting caterpillars turn into butterflies.

**Relationships and Health Education:**

Our focus this half term is on life cycles and personal relationships. We will be thinking about how our behaviour affects our peers and that there can be appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. We will be spotting the characteristics of positive and negative relationships. Reception class will discuss different types of 'teasing' and establish that all bullying is wrong and unacceptable. We will be thinking about how to say sorry if we are unkind to others.

**Personal, social and emotional:**

**Building Relationships** – Children will be listening to and taking account of what their peers say during various discussions on living beings. Thinking about the perspective of others will be important whilst discussing stories about growth. We are looking forward to meeting up with our buddies to explore how we all grow and learning with them too.

**Managing Self** – We will be continuing to do up our own zips and buttons and organise ourselves in the classroom. We will discuss staying healthy whilst exercising and continue to promote hand washing.

**Self-Regulation** – Feeling and behaviours are a key focus of our circle times. The children will think about the importance of treating other living creatures with care. Being patient, waiting our turn and focusing our attention on several instructions will form a part of our classroom practice.

**Being imaginative and expressive:** In our Music sessions we will be exploring 'under the sea', singing a song with 'stepping' and 'jumping' notes as well as creating a soundscape with instruments. We will also use our singing spoons and talk about how we feel in response to music.

**Creating with materials:** Building on our observational skills from last term, we will be making careful observations of life around us through using media and creating 'texture'. We will be making loose part insects, building on colour mixing and learning a new technique whilst working with clay.

**Playing and exploring, Active learning and creating and thinking critically**

in all of our learning. We love working with our children to provide opportunities through provision to learn. We enjoy seeing the learning created by our class and follow their interests to encourage development of 'having a go' and encouraging idea development.



**Communication and Language:**

**Listening, Attention and Understanding** – Children will be learning to listen attentively during storytimes, poetry sessions, topic explorations and Literacy lessons. We will be exploring narrative, non-fiction and letter writing, extending our vocabulary and using new vocabulary in different situations.

**Speaking** – Exciting new facts about life around us, including, 'minibeasts' and 'humans' will give us the opportunity to practise sentences outloud. Children will be recalling facts, explaining what they know, extending their speech using connectives, such as 'and', 'but', and making some super observations of the natural world around them.



**Literacy:**

Continuing with our Read Write inc phonics sessions in ability groups, we will be recapping on sounds taught so far and reading more real and 'nonsense' words containing digraphs. An important focus of this term is to extend vocabulary. We will be developing our reading skills by spotting tricky red words, engaging in non-fiction texts, learning about the past through narrative and working on our sentence writing by adding in connectives in 'The Hungry Caterpillar'.

**Maths:**

We will begin with consolidating previous learning, building on counting on and back with larger numbers. Children will learn how to count on from a given number in order to add. They will use the first, then, now structure to identify what number they are counting on from, and how many they are counting on. We will then learn how to count back from a given number in order to subtract. The children will then focus on counting forwards and backwards to and from 20. Children will explore one more and one less than to 20, as well as comparing numbers. During this unit, children will also have the opportunity to represent numbers within 20. Working on numerical patterns, Reception class will explore what is meant by doubling and will learn to recognise and represent doubles to double 5 in a range of contexts, followed by halving quantities by sharing into two equal groups. They will make links to the fact that halving is the opposite, or inverse, of doubling.