



# MEDIUM TERM PLAN

SUMMER 1

## That's Life

### SCHOOL RULES



Ready



Respectful



Safe

**BIG QUESTION:** Are minibeasts like me?



### CURRICULUM INTENT

In this unit, children develop their understanding of living things by exploring minibeasts, plants and life cycles.

Through observation, hands-on experiences and meaningful interactions, children build curiosity about how things grow, change and thrive.

They begin to make connections to the natural world, learning the importance of caring for living things and the environments they live in.

We inspire children to notice, wonder and nurture life around them.



### KEY TEXTS



The Tiny Seed



The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Omar, the Bees and Me



### KEY VOCABULARY

minibeast	insect	life cycle	grow
change	caterpillar	chrysalis	habitat
plant	seed	flower	leaf
water	care	observe	nature
living	baby	adult	cycle
			protect

### AREA OF LEARNING

### WHAT CHILDREN WILL LEARN

### HOW THIS IS TAUGHT (IMPLEMENTATION)



#### Communication & Language

- Listen and respond to stories and non-fiction texts.
- Ask questions to find out more and share ideas.
- Learn new vocabulary linked to plants and minibeasts.

- Daily circle times, SHREC interactions and storytelling.
- Vocabulary-rich continuous provision and small group talk.
- Use of real objects, images and videos.



#### Personal, Social & Emotional Development One Life Focus: The Power of Now

- Show care and kindness to living things.
- Work cooperatively and take turns in play.
- Talk about how we can look after our environment.

- Zones of Regulation and emotional coaching.
- Circle time discussions about caring for nature.
- Praise, turn-taking and group challenges.



#### Physical Development

- Develop fine motor control (cutting, threading, dough).
- Use tools with increasing control and accuracy.
- Move safely and confidently in a variety of ways.

- Funky Fingers, Dough Disco, PE sessions.
- Continuous provision (tweezers, scissors, threading).
- Outdoor play and obstacle courses.



#### Literacy

- Enjoy stories and non-fiction books about life cycles.
- Begin Phase 2 phonics. Blend and segment CVC words.
- Read and write labels, captions and simple sentences.

- Little Wandle phonics (daily). Drawing Club.
- Story mapping and role play (life cycle station).
- Label writing and sentence framing.



#### Mathematics

- Develop understanding of numbers 1-5. Subitize and compare quantities.
- Explore patterns and simple 2D shapes.

- Mastering Number sessions, maths in provision (sorting, comparing, matching).
- Counting songs and number routines.



#### Understanding the World

- Explore minibeasts and their habitats.
- Learn about plant growth and life cycles.
- Observe changes over time.

- Minibeast hunts, magnifying glasses and bug hotels.
- Planting seeds and caring for them.
- Time-lapse photos and life cycle sequencing.



#### Expressive Arts & Design

- Create representations of minibeasts and plants.
- Explore different materials and textures.
- Sing songs and move to music.

- Self-portraits, collages, model making.
- Music and movement, role play (garden centre).
- Creative exploration stations.



### PLANNED EXPERIENCES

- Minibeast hunt and bug hotel making
- Planting seeds and watching them grow
- Life cycle sequencing activities
- Visit from a minibeast expert (if possible)
- Creating our class garden display



### CONTINUOUS PROVISION ENHANCEMENTS

- Role Play – Garden centre
- Small World – Minibeasts, habitats
- Creative – Painting, collage, modelling
- Investigation – Magnifying tools, natural materials
- Construction – Bug hotels, flower gardens
- Loose Parts – Natural resources, blocks



### ADULT FOCUS & INTERACTION

- ✓ SHREC approach consistently embedded
- ✓ Sustained Shared Thinking
- ✓ Vocabulary modelling and extending
- ✓ Co-regulation and emotional coaching
- ✓ Modelling routines and expectations



### ASSESSMENT & IMPACT

#### Children will be able to:

- ✓ Talk about living things and life cycles
- ✓ Use new vocabulary in discussions
- ✓ Observe changes over time
- ✓ Show care and kindness to living things
- ✓ Begin reading and writing simple words
- ✓ Engage in play with others

#### Assessment methods:

- Observations (Tapestry)
- Phonics assessment
- Baseline & ongoing formative assessment



### HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- ♥ Go on a bug hunt together
- ♥ Plant seeds and care for them
- ♥ Read stories about nature and animals
- ♥ Talk about how living things grow
- ♥ Encourage kindness to plants and animals

Excellence and happiness for all.