



Whitehorse Manor Infant School Brigstock Site
Reception class
SUMMER TERM 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers of children in Willow Class,

Our topic this term is "Mini-beasts". We will be finding out lots of information about all different types of mini-beasts by using information books, simple encyclopedias and dictionaries. We are reading stories that feature mini-beasts such as '*The Bad Tempered Ladybird*' and '*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*' by Eric Carle. We use these texts as the basis of much of our role play, discussion, reading and writing activities. Please continue to help your child by reading with them as regularly as you can and encourage them to read themselves. Attached are the 'tricky' words. When reading with your child, please encourage them to recognise these by sight and not sound them out.

In mathematics we will be learning how to share amounts into equal groups and use this skill to help us to solve problems. We will continue to help the children to recognise numerals around them, with particular emphasis on the 'teen' numbers e.g. thirteen, and use them as labels for sets of objects. Other work will include a focus on understanding weight and length (continuing to focus on appropriate vocabulary i.e. heavier, heaviest, longer, longest etc). In our shape work the children will continue to name shapes and think about the words we use to describe them. Please continue to support your child's learning by practising counting, as well as counting on and counting back. It would help if you played number games that involve moving counters along a number line or number track.

In understanding the world we will be exploring the local area in search of mini-beasts and encouraging the children to investigate for themselves using magnifiers and bug catchers. In class we will be taking responsibility for some caterpillars and observing the changes they go through before releasing them later this term. We are also lucky to be visited soon by 'Zoolab'. They are coming to show the children their collection of mini-beasts and answer all the questions that they may have. The children will even get the opportunity to hold some of the mini-beasts if they are brave enough! We will then be using a range of materials during expressive arts and design to make our own mini-beast models and paintings.

In physical development the children will be exploring, through dance, different ways of travelling with confidence and skill. Using their knowledge of mini-beasts they will experiment with moving like different bugs. They will be encouraged to move in a range of different ways, whilst managing space successfully through changing direction and speed. The children will continue to work in our outdoor area where they have the opportunity to develop their skills whilst using a wide range of large and small scale construction and be challenged to build creatively using their imaginations.

We would like to remind you that as the weather gets warmer the children will need to have plimsolls in their PE bag with their name on, as it is likely that some sessions will take place outside in the sunshine. If you have not done so already, please ensure that they are the correct size for your child, as your child's feet may have grown since they were first put in the bag! Also now that the warmer weather is here, please send your child with a sun hat. The only baseball hat allowed to be worn at school is the Pegasus baseball hat available on the website.

Thank you for sharing your child's 'Wow moments' with us! The children have enjoyed sharing their achievements from home with us, and it has helped us get to know what your child's interests are. Please keep them coming in and ask your child's class teacher for new slips if you run out.

Thank you for your continued support,

Tanya Headley
(Willow)