The Pegasus Academy Trust

Reception Newsletter: Summer 2, 2026

Our topic over the next couple of months will encompass all things 'nature' - specifically minibeasts - and is appropriately entitled, 'Beastly Beasties'. Through this topic, the children will be focusing on developing their understanding of the world in which they live and are a part of. The children will also have opportunities to enhance their speaking, listening and understanding skills, learning how to use questions to further their own understanding of the natural world around them.

Personal, Social and Emotional: As the children enter the final term of their reception learning, we will be encouraging them to think about what they have learned about themselves over the past academic year and what they have become better at. This will link nicely with our 'Building Learning Powers' ethos where throughout the year the children have learned how to be resilient and how to stay focussed in order to be a good learner.

Literacy: The children will continue to develop a secure understanding of how to structure simple sentences, using their phonics, punctuation knowledge and tricky word learning to communicate their ideas in the written form. So as to inspire the children and to empower them as authors, they will be reading the non-fiction text 'Bugs' (DK first facts), 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' (by Eric Carle). 'Aaarggh Spider' (by Lydia Monks), 'Tadpole's Promise' (by Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross), 'Superworm' (by Julia Donaldson) and 'Peep inside a beehive' (by Anna Milbourne). The children will be creating their very own non-fiction (information) texts about a variety of different creatures inspired by the stories they read. Please support your child by encouraging them to write for different purposes for example shopping lists, short stories, letters, postcards and simple notes or messages, prompting them to use their letter sounds to help them to spell the words they wish to write (please don't worry if your child doesn't spell them correctly - they will in time!)

Communication and Language: In the classroom, opportunities will be provided for the children to use newly learned vocabulary to describe minibeasts. They will be using words such as antennae, arachnid, insect and habitat. You could play a guess who game at home with your child to encourage them to use their new vocabulary to describe a minibeast.

Maths: During this half term the children will be reviewing their maths learning for the year. They will be consolidating their subitising skills (ability to recognise a number without counting), comparison of number (more/ fewer than and equal to), counting skills which include counting beyond 20, number patterns (odds, evens, doubling and sharing) and deepening their knowledge of number bonds to 10. They will also be introduced to using a new piece of equipment called a 'rekenrek', which is a counting frame similar to an abacus.

Physical Development: With great enthusiasm, the children will continue to develop their throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting and aiming through engaging in a series of ball skills lessons. Please ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit on your class's allocated PE day. This should consist of a white t-shirt, black shorts and black plimsolls.

Understanding the World: As part of this term's topic theme, the children will look specifically at different life cycles of familiar creatures (such as butterflies and tadpoles), extending to learning about what these living things need to grow and survive within the habitats in which they live. To support this learning, each class will take care of their very own caterpillars so that they can learn about the life cycle of a butterfly from first-hand experience!

Expressive Arts and Design: The children will be designing and making habitats for creatures that they learn about this half term, drawing on the knowledge learned in class. As well as this, we will be encouraging children to take ownership of their work by selecting appropriate resources for their creations and adapting work where necessary. In class, the children will be representing their life cycle knowledge through expressive dance and gymnastic movements.

Trips and events: This half term the children have received a visit from the Zoolab Team, who brought a range of exotic creatures into school for the children to see, touch and learn about. We will also be visiting Capel Manor Farm in Crystal Palace, please see the website for the date that your class will be visiting.

The Reception Team

Don't forget to check the website at: www.pegasusacademytrust.org