

Mary Dean's C of E Primary School and Nursery – Spring 2 - 2025

Understanding the world

Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.

Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.

Communication and Language

Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.

Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Talk with others to solve conflicts.

Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

Understand gradually how others might be feeling.

Physical Development

Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width.

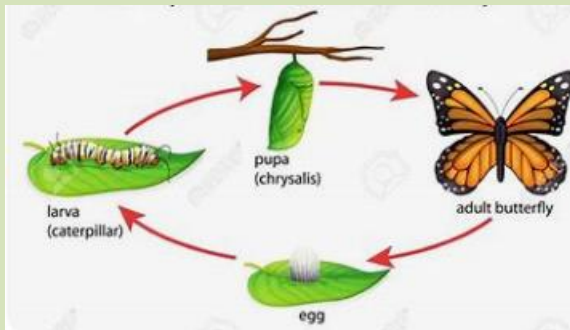
Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips.

Show a preference for a dominant hand.

Key themes:

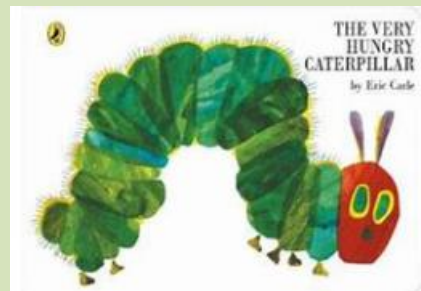
- Minibeasts
- The Lifecycle of a Caterpillar
- Pets
- Farm Animals
- Animals and their young
- How to look after animals

All Creatures Great and Small



Focus Text:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle



Literacy

Write some or all of their name.

Write some letters accurately.

Mathematics

Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof, etc. Combine shapes to make new ones - an arch, a bigger triangle, etc

Talk about and identify the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper.

Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs', etc.

Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.

Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...'

Expressive Arts and Design

Join different materials and explore different textures. Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.

Create their own songs or improvise a song around one they know.

Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.

Key Vocabulary

Minibeast, insects, spider, fly, centipede, worm, butterfly, legs, wings, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis (cocoon), dog, cat, hamster, fish, birds, cow, sheep, pig, duck, horse.

Dear Parents/Carers

This half term we will be talking about 'All Creatures Great and Small'. We will look at the wildlife around us in our local environment and compare it to animals, birds and insects from around the world. We hope to observe the lifecycle of frogs, by having a tank of frogspawn for the children to observe and care for and some caterpillars to observe as they grow, make cocoons and then change into butterflies.

This half term in our PE sessions we will continue to develop our movement skills by finding different ways to travel along benches and other apparatus. We will learn to balance by travelling along benches placed at different heights. We will also be starting forest school sessions and look at the nature around us in our school environment. Initially Forest School will be on a Tuesday so please send your child with their wellies and weather appropriate clothes. We will also continue to provide opportunities to develop our gross motor skills throughout our provision eg bikes, trikes and obstacle courses. In addition we will provide a large range of fine motor activities such as small world play, threading, playdough, painting and puzzles.

In creative learning we will start making caterpillars by using recycled materials. The children will explore different joining techniques, such as tape and glue.

We will also change our home corner to a vet's animal clinic, so the children can role-play the different experiences they have had with their pets eg using pet carriers, giving them injections and medicine.

Every week we learn a new colour. Please look at our display each week as you come through. We would appreciate your help with this by asking you to send your child in wearing something in the colour of the week. Our first week back is pink.

We will be learning some more number songs and practising counting on our hands. We will be focusing on recognising numbers to 5 and this will be supported by the Number Blocks programmes.

We use the Little Wandle phonics programme throughout the school and we teach the 'Foundations for Phonics' part in nursery. This involves lots of tuning into sounds to discriminate what a sound is and lots of rhyming activities and listening to the syllables in our names.

We are very excited to be having a new interactive teaching board. This will not only help us deliver our teaching inputs, but be available for the children to play selected maths games or phonics activities. Thank you to the PTFA for funding this for us.

Below is a topic web to show the objectives we intend to cover within this topic.

These are taken from the Development Matters EYFS guidance. Please feel free to talk to us if you have any questions.

