

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Reception Newsletter - Summer Term 2010**

Our topics for the summer term will be "Minibeasts and Big Beasts" and "Under the Sea".

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This term the children will be working with minibeasts both in the classroom and in the local environment and we will centre a lot of our discussions on how to care for insects, animals and sea creatures. We will role play scenarios about mistreating minibeast's and discuss what is right and wrong. The children will work through stories such as "The bad tempered Ladybird" to help them to empathise with how others might be feeling and they will share their own fears of creepy crawlies. The children will use role play to take turns and play alongside others whilst developing their imagination and talk for writing.

#### **Communication, Language and Literacy**

The children will work with texts such as "The Hungry Caterpillar", "The Very Busy Spider", and "Rainbow Fish" and "Finding Nemo". They will look at non-fiction books and find out how to use such books to find specific information.

They will be asked to sequence stories, to make their own information books, to write a letter, post cards and describe creatures etc to give them experience of writing for different purposes.

All of these exciting activities will take place alongside the children learning to form their letters correctly and to write simple sentences independently. They will continue to develop their speaking, listening and phonological skills through daily phonic lessons and carefully planned child initiated activities. Every week the children will be doing some guided reading and writing with an adult. Now is an ideal time for your child to join a library so that they can choose books on subjects that interest them. The children will continue to read and play games with a reading buddy from Year 4.

#### **Problem Solving, Reasoning and Number**

The children will be collecting, classifying and sorting minibeasts into wings, no wings, fast, slow etc. They will represent minibeast sets in Carroll diagrams and in block graphs. The children will learn about symmetry in nature through their observations of living things and they will create their own symmetrical patterns. They will investigate addition and subtraction problems and try to apply mathematical ideas to solve problems in their play. The children will do further work with money, recognising the coins and making simple amounts. Please help your child to make amounts of money at home using 1p and 2p coins initially. The children will revisit the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and have further opportunities to weigh, measure and explore capacity. Please help your child to form their numerals correctly as we will begin to record our work more frequently.

#### **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

The children will closely observe minibeasts and sea creatures in the outside environment and in the classroom. They will go for walks to the wood next to our school and make traps

for minibeasts. They will be using magnifying glasses to help pick out the main features – colour, patterns, antennae, etc. The children will label similarities and differences of various minibeasts and make a graph of popular ones. They will find out about life cycles, minibeast habitats, food that they eat and special features by looking at books and finding information on web sites. The children will look at fossils and learn about dinosaurs and the world long ago. They will name the common dinosaurs and some sea creatures and sort them according to their habits. The children will experiment with floating and sinking and look at the properties of materials. The children will continue to attend Collective Worships both in School and at our local Church. The children will begin to be shown how to log-on and off and find simple programs independently.

### **Creative**

We will be making collages of minibeasts to contribute to a large class frieze. The children will make observational drawings using chalks and charcoal and they will make their own clay models as well. The children will have the opportunity to make models from found materials and also to sew some spider's webs. We will be printing symmetrical butterflies and making fossils in dough. We will explore different ways of being creative with paper and this will lead to a papier-mâché sea creature and collages of underwater scenes. The children will continue to be encouraged to explore and manipulate malleable materials to construct and design their own creations.

We will be doing some country dancing in the first half-term, please help your child to skip with control. The children will be making their own music for minibeast dances, e.g. scurrying ants, buzzing bees, etc.

### **Physical Development**

We will have a lot of our PE lessons outside when the weather is fine, **please make sure that children have a pair of named plimsolls that fit.** The children will continue to develop their ball skills, rolling, throwing, catching and kicking. They will also be making and playing their own mini games and practising skills for Key Stage 1 Sports Day. We will be learning to skip with a skipping rope. This is something that the children could practice at home too. The children will be able to play on the climbing frame to develop their fine and gross motor skills.

### **Other News**

Our open afternoon for parents will be our May Day Celebration on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00pm – 3.00pm.

Our class assemblies will be on:

RDG - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010

RRB – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

We are planning to take the children to the Sea Life Centre in Hunstanton on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010. We will be leaving school at 8.15am. and returning to school at approximately 3.30pm. There will be more information nearer the time.

### **Sun Safety**

As the weather gets warmer the children will be spending some of their day outside. Please make sure that your child has a named sun hat at school and comes to school wearing sun cream.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support this term

The Reception Team