

## **ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE TOPIC OF MINIBEASTS**

### **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**

We will concentrate on how to treat our minibeasts, thinking about how living things need care and attention. We will also discuss the possibility of being frightened of some, such as spiders, and widen the topic to other things that might frighten us and reinforce the need to tell an adult if scared. We will also discuss emotions around the book *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*.

### **Communication & Language**

We will sing finger and nursery rhymes about bugs- I will provide the words for the less well-known ones so that you can repeat at home. There will be a concentration on learning new vocabulary. Keep an eye on the whiteboard which has information about daily activities where I will write up any new words that we are focusing on. Games such as 'Who am I?' where children guess the minibeast being described from the clues given, will help embed the new language.

### **Physical Development**

The children will move like the different creatures and we will set up an assault course which includes crawling through tunnels like earthworms. We will move fast or slow like a snail or a bee, beating out the rhythm on a drum, repeating work from the music topic earlier in the year. We will improve fine motor skills by cutting spirals with scissors like a snail shell, sewing spider's webs, weaving paper and threading cotton reels to copy a sequence.

### **Literacy**

We will read stories featuring minibeasts, acting some of them out. There will be a variety of activities based on *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Superworm*. Please send in any favourite stories you have. The children will also be encouraged to make up their own stories and poems.

### **Mathematics**

There will be counting activities around the spots on ladybirds; centipedes, looking at pairs and graphs representing numbers of each minibeast found. We will look at symmetry with butterflies and spirals with snails, expanding the theme by looking at and sorting seashells. We will cook spaghetti of different lengths to represent earthworms for the children to measure and order by length. There will be sequencing activities around life cycles and we will look at hexagons when we work on bees.

### **Understanding the World**

The children will build a 'Tumble Trap' in the ground to collect different minibeasts to identify and then go on to build a louse house, a bug hotel, ant farm and wormery, thinking about habitats for different creatures. We will look at the life cycles of the butterfly and the frog, supported by some good ICT games. We will put slugs and snails on black paper to look at the trails left and plant flowers to attract butterflies. There will be a wall display for everyone to add their own interesting facts about minibeasts.

**Expressive Arts & Design**

We will make colourful folding paper prints for butterflies, fingerprints to represent earthworms, paint spirals with icing bags for snails, make patterns with spots and stripes, weave pictures for webs and design junk model mini gardens for minibeasts to live in. We will listen and dance to The Flight of the Bumblebee.