



Why do ladybirds have spots?



April 2021

Dear parents/carers

The sun has arrived and it's time for our new topic 'Why do Ladybirds have spots?' We will be covering lots of exciting areas of learning with minibeasts being the focus. We have a corner of the classroom that we are calling 'down in the garden....' with giant leaves and flowers and bugs that we would see if we were the size of a ladybird! It is a colourful and exciting topic and perfect for the summer term.

So where will our new topic take us? Incy wincy spider climbed up the waterspout! Why do ladybirds have spots? Why do spiders spin webs? It's time to find out more about minibeasts and their habitats.

This half term, we'll explore on our beautiful field to carry out a minibeast safari! Magnifying glasses clutched firmly in hands, we'll look under logs, leaves and stones for creatures that wriggle, crawl or fly. We'll find out about minibeast habitats, features and colours, and compare them. Observing snails, we'll think about how they move. Can we move like that too? We'll also move like ants, working together to collect and carry objects to move and rebuild a structure, piece by piece. To get to know these creepy crawlies better, we'll make and monitor a mini wormery, build minibeast hotels and watch butterflies grow from caterpillars. Can we predict what will be these minibeasts' favourite foods? In our literacy sessions, we'll use sequential vocabulary to retell stories, and write a story from the perspective of a spider. In our mathematics sessions, we'll predict and count ladybird spots and compare the lengths of caterpillars made from cubes, counters and beads. Getting creative, we'll make leaf confetti, minibeast finger puppets, and learn to waggle dance like a bee.

Help your child prepare for their project

Minibeasts are marvellous! Why not visit your local pet shop together and take a look at some exotic minibeasts. Can you find out what countries they came from? You could also try worm charming in your garden. Put a large hoop on an area of earth, water the area with a watering can, and tap your fingers lightly on the ground. Can you entice any worms to the surface? Alternatively, read minibeast-themed stories together, such as Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*, to find out more about these incredible creatures.

A big thank you!

We would like to say a huge thank you for the amazing response to buying the growing kits. We raised a fabulous one hundred and two pounds!!! We are using the money to buy caterpillars, a snail world and lots of other exciting resources to enhance our new topic so thank you ☺

A few housekeeping bits...

- * Every Wednesday is our PE day so the children will come to school dressed ready each week.
- * Please could we kindly ask that you check the children's jumpers/cardi's are named and you check your child has come home with the right one each day. We try our best to ensure they all go home with the correct one but they can get mixed up!

The Cherry Team

