

Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

For home learning this week, we would like you to think about this term's theme of 'growing'. When you are out and about this weekend, what can you see in the environment that grows? Can you talk to a grown up about this or draw us a picture of what you spot (there's a space for this on the back of this newsletter, or feel free to do this in your home-school diary).

Love Lottie and Buzz



Week beginning 22nd April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5! We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. It has been wonderful to see the children return so full of energy, ready to learn, and eager to share their holiday news.

Our topic for this term is 'Growing', and we're thrilled to be welcoming some tiny caterpillars into both the Ladybirds and Bumblebees classrooms. The children are already looking forward to observing the changes as they move through each stage of their lifecycle.

In Literacy, we have begun exploring the much-loved story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children completed their Cold Tasks this week, and we were so impressed with how they used their phonics knowledge to help them spell tricky words. This term, we are also starting to focus on letter sizing and consistency, using tramline paper to support their handwriting. You'll be able to see this progress in their books during Book Share!

In Maths, the children have been exploring the purpose of counting to determine quantities. We revisited the concept of cardinality, helping the children understand that the last number said in a count tells us how many items there are in total. They have enjoyed practical activities that support this concept.

Across the wider curriculum, the children have been introduced to a range of new learning experiences. In RE, they considered what it means to belong to a community. In Computing, we discussed screen time and explored different alternatives to using screens. In History, we began learning about the monarchy. The children have also enjoyed the start of Explorer Time this week, focusing on observational drawing and painting spring flowers. The quality of their artwork was fantastic and showed great care and attention to detail.

In phonics, we have begun learning from Phase 5a of the animaphonics programme. This week, we have focused on the concept of a 'schwa', which is an unstressed vowel sound that appears quite often within the English language. We have learnt about 'er' in words such as butter, the 'o' in words such as dragon and the 'a' in words such as zebra. When reading words we encouraged the children to think about whether it sounded right and if not to try with 'schwa' sound instead. Phase 5a books will begin to be sent home this week with some children.

As we explore the theme of growing this term, we would appreciate donations of clean yogurt pots for our cress-growing activity later in the term. We are also collecting toilet roll or kitchen roll tubes for a Design and Technology project. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 5th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

Thursday 8th May – Book Share (straight after school)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please write a note in the home-school diary or speak to us at the end of the school day. We are always happy to help.

Best wishes,

The Foundation Team

Vocabulary we will be introducing next week:

People and Communities

- Baptism/christening - a Christian ceremony in which someone who wishes to join the church is sprinkled with water or dipped in water and welcomed into the Christian family.

Past and Present

- Monarch - A king or queen who leads a country.
- Monarchy - A way of ruling a country where a king or queen is in charge.
- Royal Family - The family of the king or queen.

The Natural World

- Natural environment – an environment that has both living and non-living things that have all occurred naturally (that is, they have not been made by humans)

Creating with Materials

- Cuckoo interval - pitch pattern of two notes found in many Early Years and Key Stage 1 songs, sounding like a cuckoo call
- Improvise – To make something up on the spot, like a story or a dance, without planning.

Home Learning