

It was lovely to welcome the children back last week. We introduced our theme of minibeasts; sharing what we know and what we would like to find out. We found out about 'big bugs' that live in other countries, as well as finding out some information about spiders and bees. Perhaps your child can remember how many legs or eyes a spider has? This week the children will have the opportunity to inspect a range of minibeasts in our 'Minibeast Lab' close-up using magnifying glasses and finding live minibeasts in our garden.

Last week we shared *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle, and we will be sharing a selection of his books this term. This week will be sharing the story of *The Hungry Caterpillar*. There is often a question from a curious child about why the word 'cocoon' is used in the book, as the children often notice we use the term chrysalis for butterflies and cocoon for moths. I have often wondered why Eric Carle had chosen to use that word, so I researched it. This is how Eric Carle responded when asked about using the word cocoon, in case you are interested or want to try to explain to your child! *'Here's the scientific explanation: In most cases a butterfly does come from a chrysalis, but not all. There's a rare genus called Parnassian, that pupates in a cocoon. These butterflies live in the Pacific Northwest, in Siberia, and as far away as North Korea and the northern islands of Japan. And here's my unscientific explanation: My caterpillar is very unusual. As you know caterpillars don't eat lollipops and ice cream, so you won't find my caterpillar in any field guides. But also, when I was a small boy, my father would say, "Eric, come out of your cocoon." He meant I should open up and be receptive to the world around me. For me, it would not sound right to say, "Come out of your chrysalis." And so, poetry won over science!*

Can I please remind parents of children who are starting Reception in September to return their packs to the office as soon as possible, thank you.

Best wishes Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy



## Minibeasts Home Learning Challenge



Practise the 'Incy Wincy Spider' rhyme – can you make up some actions to go with the words?



There are 6 ladybirds on a leaf. If 2 fly away, how many would be left on the leaf? You could use your fingers or draw a picture to help you.

Take a walk around a garden, park or outside area. What minibeasts can you find? Try looking under plant pots or stones, looking on leaves or bushes or around some plants and flowers. You could draw a picture or take a photo of any minibeasts you find.



Try making a model minibeast! You could use playdough or empty cardboard boxes and tubes. Empty yoghurt pots or plastic bottles could also be used. Maybe you could make a butterfly, a worm, a ladybird or a spider.

