

Wriggle and crawl Squirrel class Summer 1

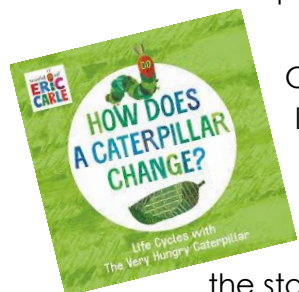


To **engage** the children in the topic we will take the children outside on an insect hunt. They will spend the first day back looking at what lives in our school grounds, the location of different habitats and what the insects need to survive. During the first week the children will look closely at insects to enable them to make detailed observational line drawings.

The topic has a strong science focus and throughout the term the children will be involved in thinking of questions they wish to answer, setting up and carrying out investigations and finding ways of reporting their findings. For example: Do woodlice prefer strawberries or raspberries to eat? Do insects have a favourite colour?

We have also ordered some caterpillars and a butterfly farm to be delivered to school for the end of this week. The children will be able to watch in our 'Laboratory', how the caterpillar change and we hope to release some butterflies into the school grounds during the last week.

We will be exploring the work of Yayoi Kusama and Damien Hurst this half term. The skills we will use will be to describe what differences and similarities we can find in the techniques and media they use. We will also explain what we like and dislike about our own artwork and consider how we would improve it.



Our Author this term is Eric Carle. We couldn't really have a butterfly farm without looking at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*! Of course he also wrote: *The Very Busy Spider*, *The Bad Tempered Ladybird*, *The Very Quiet Cricket* and *The Mixed Up Chameleon*.

We will continue to use Read Write Inc's talk through stories, this half term. Some of the stories we will be exploring are: *The girl who loved bugs* by Lily Murray, *Do you love bugs?* By Matt Robertson and *My Butterfly bouquet* by Nicola Davis.

The homework task this half term involves the children being game makers. They can create any game with an insect theme. It could be a card type game such as snap or top trumps. It may be a board game involving a dice and counting. Maybe it will be a physical game using simple equipment. It could be a puzzle type game such as a wordsearch or crossword. The style is up to you – but it must have an insect theme and if instructions are needed must either be written down or the rules known well! The game needs to be in school for MONDAY 6th May (no earlier please due to storage space).

Reading

Reading books will be changed on a Monday and Friday. Phonics books will be changed once your child has read in three phonics sessions.

P.E

All children will have PE on Monday with Mrs Whittle. Year 1 and 2 will do Cricket this half term, whilst Reception will start using the balance bikes. Year 1 children will be taking part in outdoor learning this half term, which will take place on Thursdays.

The reception children this half term will take part in some of the topic learning beside Year 1 and 2. They will also follow the Early Years curriculum and will continue to follow the phonics scheme.

Welcome back, after a well-deserved Easter break. Thank you so much for your continued support with your children and their learning. Having a positive home/ school link greatly benefits your child/ren. I also want to thank you for the support you gave the children with their previous homework. **Please continue to support your children at home with their reading. Reading every night with your child is a good habit and a great way to set routines.**

Please feel free to come and talk to me if you have any queries. I do try to make myself available at the start of teach day - though if not urgent, I would encourage you to chat at the end of the day, as I will be able to give you more time. In addition, thank you for continuing to stay the other side of wooden fence in the morning. It has had a very positive impact on the start to the day and has greatly helped the Reception children.

Let us hope that we can get outside as much as possible and that warmer temperatures and sunny days are ahead.

Kind regards

Sonia Whittle

