

Virtual Handsworth Pre-School: Weekly Bulletin 9

This week's bulletin has been prepared by: Mundele

My favourite thing about Pre-School this week might have been: . Getting excited about animals and minibeasts, using a range of our tools and resources to explore the natural world.

Our focus for the week is: Mini-beasts



Pre-School Leader's News:

Welcome to our 9th Virtual Pre-School Bulletin. The weather is lovely again this week – just right for bug and mini-beast watching if you have a garden or are able to get out and about. Indeed, tomorrow (21st May) is national outdoor curriculum day – so a good excuse to go out and spot some mini-beasts. Even if you don't have a garden, or can't access open spaces, a daily walk along the pavement will usually encounter some bugs and beasties in front gardens or flying past as you walk. Usually at Pre-School this half term we would have had some caterpillars, and we would have watched them grow into butterflies. Today (warm and bright) would have been a good day to release them and see them fly. If you wish, you can order caterpillars to look after at home. We always use Insect Lore to provide our butterflies. <https://www.insectlore.co.uk/>

This week and next it is a busy time for festivals. Many of our friends will be celebrating Eid over half term – Eid Mubarak to all our families. Some families may also be celebrating Shavout – Happy Shavout if you are – and Whitsun and Pentecost over half term.

We are continuing to plan towards our reopening. I will be sending out further information to all parents later this week. If parents have any questions in response to the additional information, or on any other issue, please do get in touch.

I met (virtually!) with the Local Authority to talk about supporting children who will be starting Reception in September. The Local Authority are beginning to post activities aimed at helping families prepare for starting school. Information is posted on their Facebook page, Chit Chat Pitter Pat <https://www.facebook.com/chitchatpitterpatLBWF/>. We will update all families with our own arrangements to support transition, early in the new half term.

Next week is half term, and we won't be issuing a Bulletin. Bulletins will resume after half term. *Janet*

Craft Activities:

Paper Plate Bugs

Make your own:

- Use paint or markers for the base and embellish with pipe cleaners, glitter, foam shapes, tissue and stickers.
- Add on eyes!
- Add magnetic strip, make into puppets, or hang with string to display!



Handprint Caterpillar Craft

How to make

- kids paint
- googly eyes
- different coloured paper

Instructions

Paint your fingers with blue and the palm with green, then stamp them on the paper. Start with the head print. To make it, don't paint your thumb, baby small, or toby tall fingers. Make the print with the fingertips pointing up.

Finish by adding googly eyes and a smile made from red paper



Play Ideas:

Can you go and explore outside, do you have a magnifying glass ??? See what insects and creepy crawlies you can find. If you don't have a magnifying glass, can you use a phone or an iPad to take some pictures of bugs you see? If you do take pictures, can you then 'zoom in' and see if you can spot all the insect's legs, antennae etc?

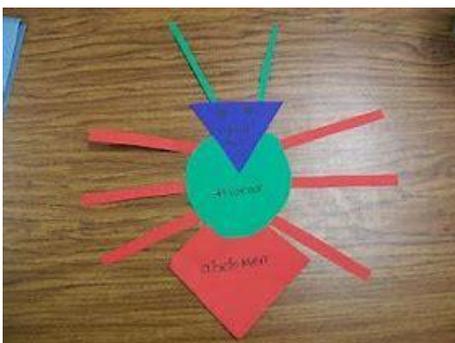
Could you make a little home for some of the insects/ mini beasts you find ??? If you and your grown ups are feeling brave you could attempt to make a bug hotel;

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>

How do Insects move ??? Slow, fast, crawling ?? Have a think as well about what noises they make are they loud or quiet ??

Exploring Number and Shape:

There is a counting activity sheet attached.



Can you make some shapes insects – make caterpillars using circles? Make bugs using different sized cut-out ovals? Can you make your own magic bugs out of different shapes – squares, rectangles, triangles, stars? Heart shapes can make good wings....and so can semi circles...



Have a think about what patterns and colours you may see when looking at mini beasts.

Songs/Stories :



My First Book of Garden Bugs – Mike Unwin

100 Bugs to fold and fly activity book - Usbourne

The Very Busy Spider – Eric Carle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle

Aaaaaaargh Spider – Lydia Monks

Felicity Fly – Christina Gabbitas

Big Bad Bug on Oxford Reading Owl is free to read and listen to. There is also a game you can play once you've finished reading the book.



Can you colour a butterfly, using the colours of the rainbow?

