

The project this term is called **What is a minibeast and where do they live?**

**What we will learn**

This term the children will be exploring the life of a minibeast, where they live, what they eat and how to look after them in our environments. As usual at the start of a new term, the adults spend time assessing the childrens' prior knowledge. Do they know what a minibeast is? Minibeasts are invertebrates (creatures without backbones) This can include worms, spiders, bees, ladybirds and many more. As we move through the project, the children will begin to identify some familiar minibeasts and where they might find them. The children will explore the terms 'habitat' and 'microhabitat' knowing that these are homes to the minibeasts and must provide everything that they need to survive. Alongside this learning, the children will be caring for caterpillars in the classroom and making a suitable habitat for our class worms. This practical element provides key learning, providing opportunity to practise new skills and knowledge. They will know that not all habitats are the same and will explore the reasons for this. Flying Foxes will then begin to group/classify the minibeasts they are learning about, identifying them by their characteristics. Finally, the children will explore the impact of minibeasts on the environment and how they themselves can help to protect and support the future of the natural environment around them. All through the learning the children will be practising scientific skills such as observing, identifying, describing, recording and classifying.

**The books we will be reading to support our understanding include:**



This term, we are hoping to host Kris Freeman, Head Ranger at Tropical Discovery Workshops who will bring a selection of minibeasts in for the children to observe and handle. This would be a truly memorable experience for the children and be key in their understanding of what a minibeast looks like up close as well as using questioning to find out more about these amazing creatures. We will also be walking to the woods to look for minibeasts in their natural environment.



**Project related vocabulary**

**Nouns:** minibeast, habitat, microhabitat, worm, centipede, insect, snail, slug, caterpillar, worm, pond, woodland, wings, antennae

**Verbs:** observe, to explore, to classify, to crawl, to burrow, to slither, to munch, to group, to fly, to hide

**Adjectives:** big, small, stripy, spotted, winged, round, small, rough, smooth, slimy

**Prepositions:** in, on, under, behind, between, nest to, behind

**Pronouns:** you, me, he, she, hers, his, yours, him

**To support your child with this project at home, you could:**

- Take a peek under stones, in grass and behind logs to see if you can find your own minibeasts - you could even make a Bug Hotel after your hunt with woodlice, beetles and worms!
- Have a look in your garden, around ponds or on a woodland walk to see how many different minibeasts there are.
- Read, watch and share stories that lend themselves to discussions about minibeast and where they live eg Mad about Minibeasts.
- Provide opportunities for your child to make a minibeast from using junk modelling to make a bee, painting pebbles to look like ladybirds or playdough spiders!
- Share songs about minibeasts or pretend to be a wriggly worm, fluttering butterfly, a busy beetle or a scurrying spider! Learn the song and signs with our Singing Hands friends to *If I were a minibeast* <https://video.link/w/vl6605b7aa88491#>