



Grafton Childcare

Mad About Mini Beasts - Monday 4th September - Friday 29th September

4th - 8th September 2017

Being Imaginative

We shall be taking our Musical Instruments outside so that the children can enjoy singing along to lots of Mini Beast and Creepy Crawly inspired songs and rhymes such as:-

Incy Wincy Spider
Little Miss Muffet
Ladybird Ladybird



Some of the Books we will be sharing with the children are:-

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
The Very Quiet Cricket
The Bad Tempered Ladybird
The Very Busy Spider
by Eric Carle

The Snail and the Whale
Superworm
What the Ladybird Heard
Spinderella
by Julia Donaldson



Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring & Using Media & Materials:
Being Imaginative:

Our topic for September is going to be based on our love of Mini Beasts and Creepy Crawlies. As always please remember to check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, which we will upload each weekend for the week ahead. www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com

During this week the children will be enjoying listening to the classic Eric Carle book the Very Hungry Caterpillar which was first published way back in 1969! We shall be linking this to Expressive Arts and design by introducing the children to printing with various pieces of fruit and using them to build up our own pictorial versions of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillars' journey through food.

We shall be putting some Mini Beasts and Creepy Crawlies into our Mud Kitchen, don't worry no creatures will be harmed during this activity as they are all made from plastic. We will also be starting our Topic display, the children will be encouraged to create their own, Woodlice using sponges to print woodlice shapes and lolly sticks to make their own Superworms.



4th - 29th September - 2017

Phonics Pots - Minibeasts

4th September - 'S' for Spider

11th Sep. - 'L' for Ladybird

18th Sep. - 'W' for Worm

25th September - 'A' for Ant

Minibeasts themed items should fit inside your child's Phonics Pot, thank you.



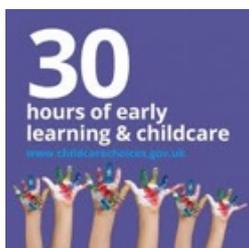
Caterpillar Junk Modelling

Please send in any cardboard egg boxes (not plastic) and bits and bobs you think the children may find useful for creating our own Catterpillars, thank you.

Thank You



Could we say a huge thank you to Annabelle's Mummy who very kindly donated a big pile of lovely children's books, Elizabeth's Mummy who very kindly passed on some lovely toys for us to have and Maggie's Mummy who gifted us some lovely Orchard Toys Puzzles and some baby books. They are all spot on and have been added to the resources which the children enjoy here at Grafton.



Communication & Language Development



Listening & Attention:

Understanding: Speaking::

Remember to check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, which we will upload each weekend for the week ahead. www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com

We will of course be reading and sharing The Very Hungry Caterpillar; The Very Quiet Cricket; The Bad Tempered Ladybird; The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle and The Snail and the Whale; Superworm; What the Ladybird Heard and Spinderella by Julia Donaldson as part of our focus on Communication and Language Development this week.

Gary will be organising lots of mini beast hunts outside with the children, they were so excited last week when during their hunt they found a H U G E moth inside the kids shed, not sure that the moth was best pleased at being disturbed but we did return him once we had all checked him out!

Natasha will be baking mini beast shaped cookies with the children, so please remember to check your child's bag for some edible goodies as we would not like them to be forgotten!

We will also be freezing some of our minibeasts (don't worry these are plastic ones) and then investigating them with our magnifying glasses and working out how to defrost them. Oh and last but by no means least we have some mini beast inspired finger gym activities planned as well, wow it's going to be yet another action packed week here at Grafton Childcare, we can't wait.

30 Extended Entitlement Funding

We are delighted to announce that 100% of our eligible parents have managed to get their 'Eligibility Codes' for the Extended Entitlement and Grafton Childcare has been able to successfully enter their details into the provider portal for the Autumn Term with few problems

18th - 22nd September - 2017

Health & Self Care at Home

For Preschoolers e.g. our 3 & 4 years olds who will be starting school in September 2018! We are now beginning to start concentrating on some of the skills they will be need to be confident in once they start in reception e.g:-

Putting on & taking off their own coats. We will help with zips and buttons at this stage, but encouraging them to put them on & take them off.

Putting on and taking off their shoes. Remember that velcro fastenings are best at this age, your child's teacher will not have the time to do up 25-30 sets of shoelaces.

Using a knife and a fork at mealtimes and using our school style mealtime trays. Later in the year our Preschoolers will begin to be awarded with certificates once they are confident in using a knife and fork, they need lots of opportunities to use appropriate sized 'real' metal cutlery at home please.

Phonics Pots - Minibeasts

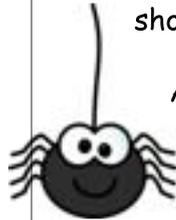
- 4th September - 'S' for Spider
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- Minibeasts themed items should fit inside your child's Phonics Pot, thank you.



Physical Development

Moving & Handling; Health & Self Care:

We have whole host of Mini Beast 'Finger Gym' activities planned for the children this week which should be great fun!



As well as some obstacle courses when the children will be having to navigate around the playground, going over and under some of the obstacles we will be setting up, just like some of the Mini Beasts we found last week in our garden.



We shall be having lots of fun exploring the properties of water in the front garden using our Water Cascade, developing our pouring and emptying skills getting to use lots of our lovely new jugs, buckets and scoops which were very kindly donated by our Preschool Class of 2016/17. We hope they are all settle in nicely to their new reception classes!

We will be popping down to Newton Abbot Library to exchange our library books and on the way back popping into Bakers the Butchers to purchase some of their lovely meaty minced lamb for one of the meals which Phil has planned for us next week, we may also pop into Ashfords Greengrocers in the Market if we have time to check out some seasonal root veg for Wednesdays Roast Pork Lunch!



Finally we have some water painting activities planned, when we shall be focusing on those all important pencil grips, which is one of the many items we cover as part of our 'School Readiness Activities'.



25th - 29th September - 2017

New Phonics Pots

We have given all of our three and four year olds (as well as those who will be turning three this term) a new sturdy pot to replace their original Phonics Pots.

Inside each child's pot we have popped a little laminated schedule showing what our weekly Phonics Focus will be over the next few weeks. These will be replaced as we move onto each new topic, throughout the year, so keep your eyes peeled for each one.

It would be wonderful if you could support your child in trying to find some small items to fit into their pot each week which link to that weeks focus letter or item.

So for example this week our focus is 'A' for Ant, so if you happen to have a toy Ant which will fit inside your child's pot that would be just amazing, along with other items from home such as an Apple, Aeroplane, Alien, Alligator, Abacus, Ambulance, Arrow or even an Angel etc.

We shall be giving out certificates at the end of each Topic for each child who brings in the most amazing, funny or ingenious item in their Phonics Pot.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Self-confidence & Self-awareness: Managing Feelings & Behaviour: Making Relationships:

This is the fourth and final week of our Mini Beast Topic which has been brilliant fun so far! During this week we will be enjoying all of our Mini Beast themed books including a delightful new one we have found by Julia Donaldson 'What the Ladybird Heard, on Holiday', which is just brilliant!

We have lots of Mini Beast Orchard Toys Games and Puzzles and will be encouraging the children to take part in these games. Because completing games and puzzles are a great activity for developing the children's self-confidence, as well as managing their feelings and behaviour and of course developing the skills needing for making relationships. Who would of thought it all these skills from just sitting down and spending time in a small group of 4 - 6 children enjoying some board games and puzzles together. Please try this at home, shall we share with you a little secret!

Sometimes we read the instructions and change them around a little bit, to make it a little simpler or the game a little bit shorter. Remember it needs to be fun or they won't want to play!

We have also planned some more activities outside with our water cascade, mud kitchen and our Mini Beasts.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

Another huge thank you to Mia-Leigh's mummy who very kindly sent us in two huge bags of plastic chain, which is just perfect for something we have planned for latter this year! We are thinking ahead for December when we will be covering the classic book the Jolly Christmas Postman. We plan on converting the Kid's Shed into a Little Post Office if you have any 'small' postal style sacks we could use as props for the children to use we would be very very greatfull and will return them.

Grafton Childcare, 24 Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1AJ, Autumn Term Newsletter (1) 2017

Dear Parents, Children and Friends of Grafton Childcare

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break, and that it has galvanised you for a fruitful and thoroughly enjoyable autumn term. The atmosphere over the last couple of weeks has been anticipation and joy, with a few nerves jangling here and there from our newbies. Of course, it is a new start for some, and some others are stepping up to become our 'big ones' and therefore, taking on fresh challenges and making new friends. We have no doubt that they will rise to them with aplomb.

Sadly Julie left us at the beginning of September to take up the management of a local Preschool and we wish her all the best, we are sure she will be amazing. As well as a raft of new children who have joined us this term, we will be shortly welcoming a new member of staff to the team. We will announce more details, once all of our necessary Safeguarding checks have been completed, so watch this space.

The summer holiday break has seen a number of improvements to Grafton Childcare and I must take this opportunity to thank Phil & Chris Tupman, who have worked tirelessly to deliver these developments for the start of our new term. Outside walls has been repainted a rather fetching lilac, and consequently are returned to their former glory. Internally, rooms have had a little bit of tender loving care some have been painted and new lighting has been fitted, holes have been filled, carpets have been cleaned and welly racks have been moved to the front gardens. This has produced much more appealing spaces for our children and staff.

We have transformed under the stairs into an amazing little role-play area, which has been a massive hit with the children, and created a new teaching space upstairs. Phil is now in the process of upgrading our first floor toilet and shower, as part of the rolling programme of restoration that started almost a year ago.

The Playroom has received a complete make-over, with half of the chrome shelving being removed which has opened up significantly the floor space to create the free flow learning space required by our little learners. All of the toys and equipment which had previously been on the chrome shelving have been sorted, catalogued and popped into our secure storage area in Phil's workshop and can still be accessed as required on a daily basis.

For Phil & Chris, it is a little like the Forth Bridge and they never come to the end of their list pinned to the fridge because we keep adding to it, but it is well worth it in terms of the resultant feel of the nursery. Do check out our huge new Sunflower in the front garden which was made by Chris, which will shortly be followed by a whole bunch of other flowers, silver bells and cockle shells and other art installations through the year!

For the remainder of the year, we will continue this process and also target the 'Kids Shed' to convert it each term to help support our Topics. This term it will become a Witches Cavern and a The Jolly Christmas Post Office. If you have any items or props at home that you would like to donate to help set the scene we would be delighted to receive them.

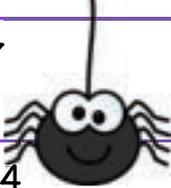
Along with this newsletter you should receive a copy of your child's planned Next Steps and information about who your child's Key Worker and Buddy may be 'if' it has changed. Please remember to keep using your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet for any comments or notes so that lines of communication are open and will ensure that prompt replies from your child's Key Worker or myself can occur when necessary.

Lastly can we please remind parents to shut all of the gates at both the front and back of Nursery when dropping off or collecting your child, please don't leave it for another parents to do. Please turn off and put away your mobile telephones before you drop off or collect your child, so that we can safeguard all of our children.

Kindest regards

Denise Tupman
Manager

**Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes
Autumn Term (1)**

Mad About Minibeasts				
4th September	5	6	7 	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19 	20	21	22
25	26	27	28 	29
The Gruffalo				
Mon. 2nd - Fri. 6th October 'Headcount Week' for Funded Children Attendance is essential to secure funding				
2nd October	3	4 	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16 	17	18	19	20 
23	24	25	26	27
Half term for term time only children 23rd-27th October				
Room on The Broom				
30	31 	1st November	2	3

Remember to keep reading our blog to keep up to date with our weekly plans!