



# Foundation Stage One

## Summer One 2026

### Sunshine and Sunflowers



#### Communication and Language

This half term, we will be using Talk for Writing to learn about lifecycles – The Lifecycle of a Butterfly and The Sunflower Lifecycle. We will use words such as ‘first’, ‘next’, ‘after that, finally’, to describe a sequence of events, using longer sentences of up to six words.

Children will be able to talk about the books we share such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and remember what happens.

We will discuss ‘why’ questions, like: “Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?”

We will continue to enrich our vocabulary through Vocabulary Cat, using word rap and actions.

#### Key Vocabulary

First, next, after that, finally, Lifecycle, egg, hatch, emerge, cocoon, symmetrical, plant, germinate, grow.

#### Literacy

We will use engaging activities to develop children’s oral blending and segmenting skills. Research has shown that children with good skills are able to learn the skills required for reading and writing more easily. Fun games such as ‘Which One?’ will help children to acquire these skills. Place a selection of objects on the floor – “Which one is the **a-n-t**”? We will encourage children to repeat the sounds and say the word –“**ant**”.

We will play fun activities e.g. ‘Bertie the Bus is going to the Zoo’ to help children to recognise words with the same start sound/phoneme (alliteration), e.g. snail/spider.

To further develop phonological awareness, we will be playing fun rhyming activities such as ‘Rhyming I Spy’ so that children can:- spot and suggest rhymes e.g. “I spy with my little eye, something that rhymes with bee” (tree, key)

#### Key Vocabulary

Rhyme, same, end sound, alliteration, start sound, letter sound, blend, segment, sound talk.

#### Mathematics

We will be learning more about subitising (the ability to instantaneously recognise the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them) using the question “What do you see/notice?”.

We will continue our learning journey of Space, Shape and Measure and continue to explore “2D and 3D shapes, using their mathematical names and talking about their properties, to design a Minibeast Home.

We will be describing a sequence of events, using words such as ‘first’, ‘next’, ‘after that’, ‘finally’, when we explore lifecycles.

We will encourage children to notice and create patterns, repeating patterns, symmetrical patterns and growing patterns observed around flowers, plants and minibeasts.

Children will make comparisons between objects relating to capacity. When comparing capacities directly, children can pour from one container to another to find which holds more, or find one that is the same.

#### Physical Development

We will continue to develop a comfortable grip with good control, when holding pens and pencils to enable us to copy/write our name and draw a minibeast.

We will be learning to remember sequences and patterns of movement, related to music and rhythm when we learn songs and dances about minibeasts.

#### Key Vocabulary

Grip, hold. Follow, lead, copy, sequence, minibeasts, slither, slide, crawl, fly, flutter, creep, jump, march.

<p><u>Key Vocabulary</u> 2D shape names, flat, 3D shapes, solid, sphere, cube, cuboid, cone, triangular prism, surface, faces, edges, symmetrical, repeating, pattern, subitise, first, next, after that, finally. Liquid, more, less, same, capacity, full, empty.</p>	
<p><b><u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u></b> This half term, children will be learning to develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community. Children will be given tasks to carry out e.g. fetching their own milk cartons/fruit and disposing of the peel etc. appropriately.</p> <p>We are looking for children to be able to follow rules, understanding why they are important and being able to remember rules without needing an adult to remind them e.g. taking one piece of fruit at snack time, walking in class.</p> <p><u>Key Vocabulary</u> Rule, share, help, 'right place at the right time doing the right thing', community.</p>	<p><b><u>Understanding the World</u></b> Clever Kittens will use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials when they start their investigation journey of becoming sunflower experts. We are going to plant sunflower seeds and care for the growing plants. We will learn the key features of the life cycle of a sunflower and the lifecycle of a butterfly and talk about the changes that occur. We will begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things and talk about our observations, using a wide vocabulary.</p> <p><u>Key Vocabulary</u> Plant, seeds, germinate, grow, lifecycle, change, explore, expert, egg, hatch, caterpillar, butterfly, emerge, cocoon, symmetrical, pattern.</p>
<p><b><u>Expressive Arts and Design</u></b> Children will develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. They will join different materials and explore different textures to design a minibeast home, using 3D shapes. We will be exploring colour and colour mixing when we paint sunflowers in the artistic style of Vincent Van Gogh. Children will be encouraged to draw with increasing complexity and detail when drawing their favourite minibeast. We will sing songs about minibeasts and learn to sing to the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').</p> <p><u>Key Vocabulary</u> 2D and 3D shape language, design, construct. Observe, colour, water, paint, palette, mix, sunflower, minibeast, sing, tone, pitch.</p>	<p><b><u>Visits and Visitors</u></b></p> <p>Tropical Butterfly House – 18<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p>10 Little Caterpillars</p> <p>World Earth Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> April (Litter picking)</p> <p>Stay, play and learn – Week 3 – 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April</p>
<p><b><u>How can you help at home?</u></b> *Please encourage your child to participate in our Redscope Reading Challenge. It would be great if you could read the Library book at least three times per week. We collect library books on a Tuesday and Wednesday and your child will come home with a new book they have chosen each Wednesday. If a book is returned every week, your child earns 2 dojo points. If a book is changed every week throughout the half term, then an extra 5 points are awarded.</p> <p><a href="#">It would be great if you could choose two projects with your child from the Home Learning (sent home and a copy is on the website) and bring them into school for discussion and earn more dojo points.</a></p> <p>If you do have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to talk to a staff member or contact us through Class Dojo.</p>	