

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,



Hello and welcome to Term 5.

We hope you had a lovely Easter break. The children were all excited to return and have made a confident start to term 5. Following the children's interest in growing and planting seeds, we started the term by learning all about sunflowers. We planted sunflowers, looked at some real sunflowers and made observational drawings and paintings just like Van Gough.



Alongside the children's individual learning journeys, we will be learning all about minibeasts this term. We will be reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, 'The crunching, munching caterpillar' by Sheridan Cain, 'The very busy spider' by Eric Carle and 'Snail trail' by Ruth Brown.

We will be learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar by watching our very own caterpillars grow and transform into butterflies. We will also have our own pet African land snail to observe and look after.

We hope to observe some eggs hatch into ducklings and will share duck related stories such as 'Duck in a truck' by Jez Alborough and 'Farmer Duck' by Martin Waddell. We are still waiting for some parents to agree to donate money towards the duck project. Please visit the office if you need some help using the online payment system.

Focus Child

We will continue the focus child approach this term. Each week, the children will take it in turns to be our special helper. The adults will observe and support their play to encourage next steps on their learning journey. Look out for a snippet of your child's learning journey on Tapestry.

Online journal

Please stay in touch using the online learning journal Tapestry. Your input is invaluable and the children are delighted to see photos and talk about what they have experienced at home. Please continue to share your home adventures with us as it is a brilliant opportunity to practise communication skills.

<https://tapestryjournal.com/>



Days to remember:

- **Wednesday 27th April:** parent's evening to replace Tuesday 29th March
- **Monday 2nd April:** Bank holiday (Nursery shut)
- **16th May:** Duck eggs arrive
- **End of term 5:**
Thursday 26th May
(Friday 27th May is an INSET)

Please feel free to book an appointment to see the Nursery key workers through the office if you have any questions or concerns.

In Nursery, we follow the children's lead and encourage learning through play. We will also encourage development in the following areas:

Personal, social, emotional development	We will continue to learn about our feelings and how to be a good friend. During play, the keyworkers will help the children learn to share, take turns and play in a small group. We will encourage independence and confidence through special helper responsibilities, free-flow play opportunities and small group circle times.
Physical development	During free flow play the children will continue to develop gross motor skills by climbing, cycling, scooting and balancing. The children will be encouraged to develop their fine motor skills each week through a range of activities and games. We will be encouraging mark making with many different materials, inside and out, large and small. Please continue to support your child to put on their own coat and put on their shoes independently.
Communication and Language Development	We will support the children to develop vocabulary, support them to ask questions and give explanations during play. We aim to improve story telling skills this term so look out for your child's story scribe on Tapestry. We will support the children to develop attention and listening skills through weekly bucket time sessions and daily circle time activities. Super cat will help the children extend their vocabulary during our word of the week sessions. We will learn a new Makaton sign each week to support communication skills for all.
Literacy	We will read and act out 'The very hungry caterpillar'. We will continue to learn to write our names. We will play lots of 'Fred games' to practice hearing sounds and blending them together to make words. This term, we will begin to link letter shapes and sounds. At Cheddar Grove, we use the 'Read, write, Inc.' scheme. In Nursery, we introduce the children to the picture cards to support their transition into Reception. Please see this video which explains how to pronounce each letter sound.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUq7Q Here is some more information about the 'Read, write, inc' scheme: https://home.safordaw1.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-saford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/ We will let you know which sounds we will be learning each week via Tapestry. Don't forget to bring in your child's book bag every Wednesday so they can choose another library book.
Maths	We will continue to recognize, count up to and back from 10 during our number time sessions. We will practice counting up to 10 objects accurately, sing number rhymes and play games to improve number skills. We will measure objects using our paper chain caterpillars and describe length the terms long, longer, longest. We will learn about 2D shapes by looking at Matisse's snail picture.
Expressive Art and Design	We will learn about the artist Vincent Van Gough and make observational drawings of sunflowers and we will use clay to make models of snails. We will mix coloured ink to make rainbow winged butterflies. The children will learn some new songs and will play along to favourite songs using a range of different instruments. We will explore shapes through Matisse's artwork.
Understanding the world	This term, we will be welcoming some caterpillars into the Nursery and will watch them transform into butterflies. We will also be learning about the life cycle of a duck. The children will be able to observe, hold and look after an African land snail. We will plant some sunflower seeds and watch them grow. Let us know if you have any soil or large planters / pots to donate to the Nursery.

Outdoor clothing



We are hoping that the sunny weather continues this term. As we spend a lot of our time playing outside, please make sure you apply sun screen to your child each morning and ensure they have a sun hat in Nursery. We will be sending out a form for you to give permission for the Nursery staff to apply sun screen in the afternoon soon. A waterproof coat is also essential in Nursery. Don't forget to name all items of clothing.

PPA

Miss Morgan will have her PPA (planning, preparation and assessment time) every Wednesday morning in term 5. Mrs Thoburn will be the class teacher during this time.

Key worker groups:

Your children will have a different key worker for terms 5 and 6.

Yellow group keyworker - Mrs Clark

Blue group key worker - Mrs Stepaniuk

Red group key worker - Miss Morgan and Mrs Thoburn (Wednesday morning only)

Best Wishes,

The Nursery Team

