



### Key Learning

1	UTW	Explore natural materials indoor and outside
2	UTW	Explore and respond to natural phenomena in their setting.
3	UTW	Explore materials with different properties.
4	CL	Start to develop conversation jumping from topic to topic
5	PSE	Learn to use the toilet with help and then independently
6	PD	Walk, run, jump and climb independently
7	PSE	Feel confident when exploring new places with their key person
8	PSE	Develop friendships with other children
9	CL	Understand simple instructions
10	M	Take part in finger rhymes with numbers
11	EAD	Explore different materials using their senses to investigate them

### Key People/Places/Facts

1	Garden	
2	House	
3	Caterpillar	
4	Frog	
5	Butterfly	
6	Pond	
7	Worms	
8	Trees	
9	Bees	
10	Ladybird	

### Big Questions

1	What insects can you find?	
2	What sounds can you hear?	
3	How does it feel?	
4	How many legs can you count?	
5	What is your favourite?	

### Vocabulary

Minibeasts	Bugs
Spider	Caterpillar
Cocoon	Butterfly
Frog	Tadpole
Worm	Bee
Beetle	Leaf
Centipede	Wasp
Ladybird	Spots
Legs	Eggs
Pond	House
Flowers	Plants

## Physical development

The children will have opportunity to practice their running skills and be given the opportunity to explore how they can move in a variety of ways through music and dance.

There will be a strong focus on outdoor learning giving the children lots of opportunities for fine motor and gross motor development through digging, mark making, threading, building and climbing.

We will visit forest school throughout this half term, exploring and finding natural materials.

The children will be exploring new tastes and textures.

We will continue to work with parents and toilet training.

## Communication and language

This half term the children will have many opportunities for talk time through circle time and small group activities during key worker time. The outdoor environment will also provide many talking opportunities asking lots of open ended questions as they find mini beasts. There will be a strong push on developing vocabulary this half term especially as we have had a big intake of new starters who have just turned two. Family photos will also allow the children to talk about themselves and people who are special to them.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term we have had a big intake of new starters who have just turned two, we will be focusing on settling them in and getting them used to our nursery routine through key worker time and focused activities, this will allow the children to build self-confidence and independence. During circle times the children will take turns to choose songs encouraging them to join in with words and actions as they build their confidence. Children will continuously be reminded of the "Golden rules" and will be reminded of these on a daily basis. Adults to praise children during continuous provision to promote positive behaviour rather than correct negative.

**Year: Pod**  
**Term:**  
**April/May**  
**Theme:**  
**Minibeasts**

## Expressive Arts and Design

The children will have many opportunities to explore and engage with different creative media. The children will continue to design, make and evaluate using a range of different materials along with choosing colours and materials for a purpose. The children will explore how colours can be changed, when making their butterflies. The class will also look at identifying colours through continuous provision.

There will be opportunities for learning outside the classroom, where the children explore the natural materials in the outdoor environment using all of their senses.

The children will have opportunity to experience 'pavement art' during learning outside the classroom.

## Understand the World

This half term the class will be looking at mini beasts. We will look for mini beasts around the garden and explore forest school using magnifying glasses. The children will observe and learn about the caterpillar and frog life cycle. The children will be encouraged to talk about their families as they look at family photos in school, we will also ask new starters to bring in family photos to add to our family wall. The children will have many opportunities to investigate props and small world play toys.

## Literacy

The class will continue phase 1 phonics. Higher achievers will continue to learn the initial phoneme using flash cards and the jolly phonics songs. Middle and younger children will continue to develop listening skills by going on sound walks and playing simple listening games. The new intake will be encouraged take part in Nursery Rhymes relating to our topic such as Incy Wincy spider, Incy Wincy caterpillar and five speckled frogs using puppets and actions to help them sing the song. We will continue to focus on mark making and early writing skills (for the higher achievers). Also providing plenty of opportunities for fine motor development through play dough, scissor control etc. The topic will provide many opportunities for mark making and early writing such as, drawing and writing using new sensory experiences such as mud, sensory trays and chalks outside. The children will be taking part in listening and retelling the stories of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Aaarrgghhh spider. There will also be many opportunities for speaking and listening during talk time sessions along with role play and 1:1 time with key worker.

## Mathematics

The class will focus on counting to 10 and recognising simple shapes in their environment with the use of natural materials in the outdoor environment.

This half term the class will concentrate on counting and identifying numerals 1-10, singing number songs related to the topic such as 5 speckled frogs.

The children in the higher group will also begin recognising numerals up to 10 and will begin to understand number is used for purpose. The Children will take part in colour matching activities, developing an understanding of colours.

