



Ladybirds News

Summer 1, April 2026

GROWING!



Welcome back! We are ready for another half-term of exciting learning in the Ladybirds class! This half-term we are excited to begin our new topic 'growing', where the children will explore how plants, animals, and living things can change and develop over time. We are very excited to introduce some events and experiences the children will enjoy. For example, gardening activities and a caterpillar to butterfly experience.

Our focus stories for this half-term are:

- **JACK & THE BEANSTALK**
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar, *Eric Carle (two weeks)*
- Pig in the Pond, *Martin Waddell*
- What the Ladybird Heard, *Julia Donaldson*
- Spot Goes to the Farm, *Eric Hill*

In **Phonics** this half-term we will learn to hear the similarities and differences in spoken words at the start of words.

Super sound sheets will be sent home weekly. These will include the book we have been focusing on that week, a song and a game you can play at home. Children learn so much through re-visiting their learning, it would be great if you could support their learning journey at home. Children are expected to find the beginning, end in a book and talk about a known story.

PSED

Jigsaw is part of our PSED curriculum. This half-term, the theme is *Relationships*.

The children will find out how to make friends and talk about their family members. They will begin to understand how to make friends especially when they feel a bit lonely. They will talk about some of the things they like about their friends and will learn what to do if somebody is unkind to them. They will practise using their Calm Me Time strategies to manage their feelings and talk about how they can work together to enjoy being with their friends.



MATHS

In maths this half-term children will explore creating their own repeating patterns, as well as joining in with making patterns together. We will also begin to develop puzzle skills, encouraging children to think carefully and try different ways to solve problems.



KEY QUESTIONS

- How will my seed grow?
- Where do butterflies come from?
- Who lives on a farm?
- Do all animals make the same noises?
- What baby animals live on a farm?
- What is a family?
- What is a friend?



What can you do to support your child's learning at home?

Topic support at home:

- **Talk about plants and flowers you see outside.**
- **Read stories about animals and growing**
- **Encourage your child to notice changes in nature.**
- Have family time and talk about your experiences. Children learn so much through talk and it helps them to make sense of their experiences.
- Enjoy story books together. Read regularly to your child and talk about what happened in the story. These are vital pre-reading experiences.
- Spot numbers and letters in the environment and point them out. Notice the numerals that make your house number, the number on the bus, look for letters from their name in the road name signs etc
- Count things, such as: counting the stairs on the way to up bed, counting out the cups onto the table etc.
- Climb, run, jump and balance at the park and in other fun ways. This will strengthen core body muscles.
- Play with playdough, use water to paint the fence or wall, use a spray bottle to squirt water on plants. Activities like this strengthen hand wrist muscles ready for mark-making.
- Share stories together at home to help children develop pre-reading skills and a love of books.

Which staff are in the Nursery?

- Miss Cokkinos (Miss C), Nursery, Ladybirds class teacher
- Mrs Wilson, Nursery support staff



REMINDERS

Please remember to label all bags, jumpers, cardigans and coats with names. It really helps us! Finally, a request about footwear, if you are able to send your child in **Velcro or buckle** shoes this saves us a lot of precious learning time throughout the day from tying shoe laces! As always thanks in advance for your continued support.

ClassDojo

We would like to say a big thank you to all our families for using ClassDojo so positively. It has been wonderful to see such great communication between home and nursery. We appreciate you taking the time to read messages, share updates, and celebrate your child's achievements with us. It helps us work together to support your child's learning and development. Please continue to check ClassDojo regularly.

Reading

Please continue to share stories together at home as this is so important and helps children develop pre-reading skills and a love of books.

Other key information and key dates for your diary:

- **Monday Stay and Read** Mornings 8.45am – 9.00am and Monday afternoons 3.00pm – 3.20pm come and read and enjoy a story with your child.
- **Stonebridge Farm-** TBC

Contacting the Nursery Team

- We are at the classroom door at pick up times and are always happy to say hello or have a quick chat. Call the office to pass on a message or ask for a call back. 0115 9152953
- Follow us on the Class Dojo app, and keep an eye on the website for up-to-date information and key messages.



ClassDojo