



Ladybirds News

Summer 2, June 2026

Let's explore outdoors!



We would like to welcome all of the children and families back for another exciting term at nursery! We hope you had a lovely break and are ready for lots of fun learning experiences ahead.

Our new topic this term is **"Let's Explore Outdoors"** where the children will discover the natural world through outdoor play, nature walks, creative activities, and hands-on exploration. We are looking forward to learning about plants, animals, weather, and all the exciting things we can find outside.

Our focus stories for this half-term are:

- **THE UGLY DUCKLING**
- Tiny is a Tidy Crab, *Paula Bowles*
- Hooray for Fish, *Lucy Cousins*
- Billy's Bucket, *Kes Gray*
- Commotion in the Ocean, *Giles Andreae*
- Shark in the Park, *Nick Sharratt*
- Lucy Goes on Holiday, *Lucy Cousins*

In **Phonics** this half-term we will learn to hear to hear and say separate sounds in words, ready for making and reading words when school starts

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 **changing me**. The children will learn about how we grow and change. Through stories, songs, discussions, and activities, we will explore how our bodies and abilities change as we get older, what makes us special, and how to take care of ourselves. The children will have opportunities to talk about what they can do, celebrate differences, and build confidence in themselves and others.

MATHS

In maths this half-term the children will explore early maths skills through fun practical activities. We will focus on recognising and counting to 5, stopping at numbers 1–5, matching, sorting, and comparing objects, and creating our own repeating patterns. The children will also develop confidence in showing quantities to 5 and using mathematical language in play and everyday routines.



KEY QUESTIONS

- Where should my rubbish go?
- Where do fish live?
- What can you see? / What's in my bucket?
- Who lives in the sea/ocean?
- What can we find in a park?
- Where do you go on holiday?
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What can you do to support your child's learning at home?

Topic support at home:

- Go on a nature walk and collect leaves, sticks, flowers, or stones to talk about and explore together.
- Visit a park.
- Look at holiday photographs together and discuss where you went, what you saw, and your favourite activities.

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:

- **Wednesday Stay and Read** Mornings 8.50am – 9.00am and Monday afternoons 3.00pm – 3.10pm come and read and enjoy a story with your child.
- Picnic at the park- **TBC**
- Holiday experience Day (Week 8)

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