

Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter 18th March 2022

Nursery

This week we have started to learn about lifecycles, initially focussing on the life cycle of a sunflower. We've related our learning to the story of *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. We read an information book on *The Lifecycle of a Sunflower*. After reading, we watched a video clip of a sunflower growing from seed sped up over time – the children were fascinated by this and related this to our very own growing sunflowers. We then had great fun exploring moving in different ways to tell the story of *The Tiny Seed*. The children produced their own observational paintings of sunflowers - Van Gogh style. We went on a welly walk around the school grounds observing the changes we could see in the environment – blossom on trees, buds, new leaves, Spring flowers emerging. In maths, we have explored subitising, counting and the composition of the number 4. In phonics, we are continuing our *Letterland* journey and learnt the sound that the letter 'i' makes. We are continuing to work hard on name recognition and writing, pencil control and grip – I am really impressed with the progress the children have made in terms of their fine motor skills. We shared the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and related his transformation to our very own caterpillars - who the children have observed have grown very big and fat. Next week we will be continuing our exploration of the story and the lifecycle of a butterfly.



Reception

This week we have continued to look at the life cycle of the butterfly and this has evolved our learning into growing. The story we have been reading this week is *Oliver's Vegetables* and the focus of this story is growing vegetables and changing our likes and dislikes towards different tastes and flavours. The children have learnt in detail the process involved around planting and growing vegetables, they have completed some beautiful work containing these details and have had some hands-on experience of planting themselves. We had a fantastic day at Forest School and learnt how to make clay sculptures of all the creatures that you may find in the wild. In phonics we have been focusing on the sounds of oi and oy, the children have enjoyed the interactive lessons that *Letterland* provides as well as using these sounds in their daily writing.

Finally, in maths we have been focusing on numbers 9 and 10. The children have mastered easy ways to spot these numbers without physically counting them as well as different simple sums to make them.

