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Dear Parent/Carer,

We have now welcomed almost all our new starters into Nursery and they have done amazingly well, as have the older children at adapting once again to changes which this brings. We are seeing new friendships formed and children who were a little unsettled are now coming in smiling so it can make everything seem worthwhile! It helps you to all know too that having the children happy and settled is our main aim because we can build on everything else with a happy child.

It is a busy environment and children are free to choose their own play and engage in self-chosen activities but can also be directed to specific tasks or little group times where appropriate. We are focusing on minibeasts at the moment and learning about those that 'creep and crawl' or those which 'hum and buzz', 'flutter and fly' and as you might expect some of us can't wait for the 'weave and spin'.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, to support our learning in this area, we have booked Kirkleatham Owl Centre to visit school to enable the children to see some animals up close and even handle some of them. We will send a letter out shortly for you to let us know if your child has allergies etc for this session but it has always proved a very popular time with the children and their enthusiasm over-riding any of our more cautious thinking towards seeing a giant millipede or tarantula! (For safety reasons they don't touch this one!).

We are now in the process of starting to work on our outdoors environment and are looking forward to seeing some of our planning start to come to fruition over this term. We think it will be exciting for the children and offer more permanent areas for them to explore. Whilst we are talking about outdoor play can we please remind you that we do need a coat every day. Our area is a bit of a wind trap and whilst warm elsewhere there can still be a chill. We have lent many coats to children over the past two weeks. Can we please request, with the better weather that will hopefully appear, that you apply sunscreen to your child before their session and provide them with a named sunhat too. We also need to ask please that for safety reasons your child does not wear open toed sandals. The climbing equipment and bikes and scooters could cause injuries with these. Thank you.

As this is a very short term we will be sending a new letter very shortly with next term's focus which will of course include talk of transitions into Reception for our older children. Thank you for your support with the sound books for our older children. These can make a very big difference for the children and help prepare them better for their learning in Reception in September.



Having spoken to many parents of our new starters I promised to write about Jolly Phonics which helps the children to learn the letter sounds with an action as a prompt. The whole alphabet can be seen if you You Tube, 'Jolly Phonics Phase 2'. It is worth watching together because the way we pronounce some of the letters is very different to how some of us learnt them when we were at school. The changes are worthwhile and do help make learning to read that little bit easier.

With the exception of our very recent new starters, who we are allowing time to settle, the library is going well. The children love to choose their books and chat about their choices which is great. We are enjoying seeing their little books returned particularly where your child is having a go him/herself. They are very proud of their efforts!

Thank you to everyone involved in the recent Parent/Carer Consultations. We hope you found them useful. Please know though that if ever you wish to discuss anything you can ask at any time. We will always do our best to talk to you or arrange a further time should you need it.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Lewis, Mrs Little and Mrs Macfarlane.