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Together we **learn, grow and dream**

## Butterflies Nursery: Half-Termly Curriculum Snapshot

### Welcome to our Learning Journey!

Welcome back to a brand-new year in Butterflies! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break filled with special moments, rest, and celebrations. We would like to wish all our children and families a very happy New Year. We are so excited to begin another half term of learning, play, and discovery together. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and families joining the Butterflies family this term. We are so pleased to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you and supporting your child as they settle into nursery life.

This overview is designed to give you a snapshot of the exciting and purposeful learning that will be taking place in Butterflies. It highlights the key learning experiences and themes that will underpin our activities and play throughout the half term.

This half term, our topic is **How do we tell stories?** Through familiar and much-loved traditional tales, we will encourage children to explore storytelling, characters, settings, and emotions. Children will listen to, act out, and retell traditional tales, developing their language, imagination, and understanding of the world around them. We will also support children to make links between stories and their own experiences, using play to help bring stories to life.

### Our Learning this Half-Term

#### Communication and Language

**Key Learning Focus:** Listen attentively in a range of situations, ask questions and listen to the response, follow one-step and two-step instructions and extend our vocabulary exploring the meaning and sounds of words.

**How we will learn:** Children will develop new vocabulary and confidence in speaking through shared stories, storytelling, role play, and small-world play linked to traditional tales. They will be encouraged to use story language such as “once upon a time” and “happily ever after,” retell familiar tales, and talk about characters and events. We will continue to build on our Makaton skills to support communication and inclusion.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

**Key Learning Focus:** Learning about our emotions, building friendships and becoming more independent in our daily routines.

**How we will learn:** Children will explore feelings and behaviour through story characters, learning



about right and wrong choices, kindness, and empathy. Through role play and collaborative activities, they will practise turn-taking, sharing, and working together. Daily routines and familiar story experiences will help children feel secure, confident, and part of our classroom community.

## Physical Development

**Key Learning Focus:** Mastering our gross motor skills (e.g., running, jumping, climbing) and refining our fine motor skills (e.g., using scissors, painting, building with small bricks).

**How we will learn:** We will continue to support children's physical development through a range of purposeful and practical activities. Children will strengthen fine motor control through story-related activities such as drawing characters, cutting materials, threading, and building story settings. We'll also focus on developing gross motor confidence through outdoor play, climbing, balancing, dancing, and moving in different ways. This snowy weather is a perfect opportunity for the children to continue to practise managing zips, boots, and coats, supporting self-care and growing independence. Daily routines, movement games, and time in provision will all help children build strength, coordination, and confidence in their bodies.

## Literacy

**Key Learning Focus:** Explore mark-making and experiment with different tools. With support, start to recognise and name some letters, especially those in their own name, and begin linking sounds to letters. They will also practise hearing initial sounds in words and give meaning to the marks they make.

**How we will learn:** A love of books and storytelling will be nurtured through daily story times and repeated readings of traditional tales. Children will explore story structure, characters, and repeated phrases. Mark making will be encouraged through story maps, labels, drawings, and early writing opportunities, helping children give meaning to the marks they make.

## Mathematics

**Key Learning Focus:** Developing our knowledge and understanding of numbers to 10 and exploring length and capacity. Counting accurately using 1-1 correspondence and matching written and spoken numerals. Practise correct number formation and shape recognition.

**How we will learn:** Children will explore maths through meaningful, story-based play. They will count characters and objects, compare sizes (big/small, tall/short), and sequence events from stories. Patterns, shapes, and positional language will be explored through construction, small-world play, and everyday routines.

## Understanding the World

**Key Learning Focus:** Exploring different environments, materials, and traditions, and learning about similarities and differences.

**How we will learn:** Children will talk about different homes and settings found in stories, explore materials such as straw, sticks, and bricks, and compare traditional tales from different cultures. They will be encouraged to share their own experiences and ask questions, helping them make sense of the world around them.

## Expressive Arts and Design

**Key Learning Focus:** Exploring colours, textures, music, movement, and imaginative play.

**How we will learn:** Children will express themselves creatively through story-inspired art, model making, music, and dance. They will act out familiar tales using role play, puppets, and small-world

resources, invent new characters or endings, and talk about their creative choices with growing confidence.

### Our Curriculum 'Golden Threads' ✨

**Global Citizenship:** We are nurturing global citizens. We will be linking our learning to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development as 'golden threads' throughout our half-term. Last term we introduced Global Goal 2 - Zero Hunger. This half term we will be exploring Global Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption.



### Supporting Learning at Home 🏠

We've put together a short [home learning sheet](#) with some simple, fun ideas linked to our topic this half term. These activities are completely optional and are designed to fit easily into everyday family life through talking, playing, and sharing stories together.

We believe in a strong partnership between home and school. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions or would like further ideas on how to support learning at home.

Best wishes,

The Butterflies Team - Mrs Crawford, Ms Brelsford, Miss Power and Mrs Whittaker

Wincham Community Primary School and Nursery