

RECEPTION



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Coming up next week...12/5/25

Please continue bringing in any junk modelling. Smaller boxes, egg boxes, milk lids, toilet roll tubes, plastic bottles etc are more useful than very large boxes!

Reception will be doing PE on Wednesday and Friday this term, please send your child into school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Learning in school:

Theme for the Term: Minibeasts!

This half term, we will be learning about a variety of minibeasts and looking at similarities and differences between them and where we find them.

Theme for the Week:

This week in our writing lessons, we have been very excited to start creating our own minibeast stories. The children will use Colourful Semantics to help them plan and tell their stories - this means we're thinking carefully about **who** is in the story, **where** it is happening and the oh no! And fixing it for the 'what doing' before we write. We're encouraging all children to have a go at writing, whether that's a few words, labels, or full sentences, depending on their stage. We will be modelling capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

How you can help at home:

- Talk about different minibeasts and describe them together e.g. the slippery snail or the brave ant etc.

Phonics:

In Phonics next week, we will be working on reading longer words by teaching children how to break them into smaller chunks to make them easier to read. We'll also explore compound words—two smaller words joined together to make a new word. Alongside this, we'll focus on tricky words such as *there*, *when*, *what*, and *one*.

Maths:

Next week in Maths, we will be focusing on subtraction calculations. We'll introduce new vocabulary such as "first," "then," and "now" to help students understand the sequence of steps in subtraction. This will support their problem-solving skills and enhance their understanding of the process. Additionally, we'll be practicing missing number sums, where students will need to find the missing value in a subtraction equation.

Additional notes and reminders

Homework

Maths homework can be found in the blue homework folders in your child's bookbag. Homework folders will be collected in the same day that sounds folders are collected in.

Please continue reading with your child as often as you can and practising the sounds in their sound folder.

Class email addresses:

turtles@mead.surrey.sch.uk

starfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk

jellyfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk

Please note that as the week progresses it is sometimes necessary to change what is planned to meet the learning needs of the children and therefore changes to the above may occur.



UK Health
Security
Agency

Enjoy the outdoors but **'be tick aware'**



'Be tick aware' to avoid tick bites and know how to take action if you or your family get bitten by ticks



Tick sizes compared
to a one penny coin



What are ticks?

Ticks are small, spider-like creatures that feed on the blood of animals, including people. The size of a tick can vary, with a larva being as small as a tiny freckle, and fully fed females similar in size to a baked bean.

Where do you find ticks?

Ticks survive in many habitats, but prefer moist areas with leaf litter or longer grass, like in woodland, grassland, moorland, heathland and some urban parks and gardens.

Ticks don't fly or jump. They wait on vegetation for a host to pass by, and then climb on. They bite and attach to the skin and feed on blood for several days, before dropping off. Ticks are found throughout the year, but are most active between spring and autumn.

Main health risks

- ticks can sometimes transmit microbes that may cause human diseases such as Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis (TBE), though TBE is rare in the UK. It is important to be tick aware and see your GP promptly for diagnosis and treatment if you recognise the symptoms of tick-borne diseases which can include:
 - a flu-like illness, fatigue and muscle and joint pain
 - a characteristic expanding red rash, known as erythema migrans (present in many but not all cases)
 - persistent headache, confusion or sensitivity to bright light
- you may not always remember being bitten by a tick, so if you have spent time outdoors and develop any of these symptoms, seek advice from your GP or dial NHS 111
- Lyme disease can be treated with a course of antibiotics. Without treatment, more serious conditions can develop such as swelling in some joints or problems with the nerves and heart, so prevention and early detection are key
- rarely ticks transmit tick-borne encephalitis (TBE), however the risk in the UK is very low. Symptoms include flu-like illness, persistent headache, confusion and sensitivity to bright light

Avoiding ticks

- walk on clearly defined paths to avoid brushing against vegetation
- wear light-coloured clothes so ticks can be spotted and brushed off
- use repellents such as DEET
- carry out a tick check

Carry out a tick check

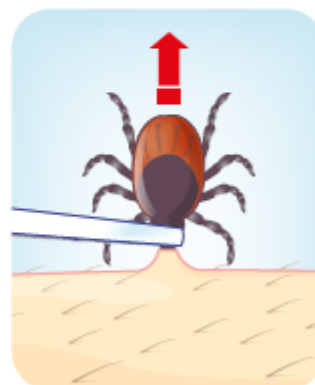
Make it a habit to check your clothes and body regularly for ticks when outdoors and again when you get home. Check your children and pets as well.

Areas that ticks may frequently be found include skin folds, armpits, groin, waistband area, back of the neck and hairline. Data from UKHSA's Tick Surveillance Scheme shows that adults are commonly bitten on the legs, whilst children are commonly bitten on the head or neck area. It is important to remember, however, that bites can occur on any part of the body and more than one tick can be attached at one time.

If you have been bitten

- remove ticks as soon as possible
- the safest way to remove a tick is to use a pair of **fine-tipped** tweezers or a tick removal tool
- grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible
- pull upwards slowly and firmly, as mouthparts left in the skin can cause a local infection
- clean the bite area with antibacterial wash/soap and water, and monitor it for several weeks for any changes
- contact your GP promptly if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms or develop a spreading circular red rash. Remember to tell them you were bitten by a tick or have recently spent time outdoors

**Tick removal
with tweezers**



**Tick in the
environment**



**Tick attached
to skin**



**Lyme disease
bullseye rash**



**Tick found
under hair**



Key tick awareness messages

- **'be tick aware'** and remember that you could be exposed to ticks whenever you spend time outdoors, including when in your garden or the local park
- ticks mainly attach to animals, but sometimes they may bite you or your family. It is important to remember that bites can occur on any part of the body and more than one tick can be attached at a time
- you can reduce the chance of tick bites by walking on clearly defined paths, using insect repellent and performing **regular tick checks**
- some tick bites can result in infection, so it is important to remove ticks safely and as quickly as possible
- the safest way to remove a tick is by using a pair of **fine-tipped** tweezers or a tick removal tool
- if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms, or develop a spreading circular rash (which usually appears within 1 to 4 weeks after being bitten), **contact your GP or dial NHS 111 promptly**

More information

For more information, search for the phrases 'ticks' and 'Lyme disease' on these websites: www.nhs.uk www.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/government/collections/lyme-disease-guidance-data-and-analysis

www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/

www.nhs.uk/conditions/tick-borne-encephalitis/

You can also send any ticks you find to our Tick Surveillance Scheme. Visit www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-surveillance-scheme to find out more.

NICE Lyme guidance: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng95

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