



BUSY BEES

**ANNUAL PROJECT
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023**

Coordinators

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INTRODUCTION

‘NEVER-ENDING STORIES’

Our lives are never-ending stories of past, present and future events. Every action, emotion, experience, and decision leads us to something else. Our own stories intertwine with those of our friends and families, to make the narrative even richer and more vivid.

As the Early Years children start their new school year at Smiling, so a new chapter begins for us all:

THE BUSY BEES’ PROJECT:

Friendships Create Never-Ending Stories

The following topics will be supported by a variety of fairy tales, legends and stories as well as non-fiction and real-life books read in English and Italian. The children will have fun acting them out and role-playing different characters. They will also have the opportunity to watch and help tell stories through the fascinating Japanese storytelling box called a ‘Kamishibai’.

Comparing Emotions & Senses

Watching the reactions of other helps us to relate to each other. Children begin to feel empathy and curiosity if another child is crying, shows anger or laughs out aloud, as they can relate to these emotions. This realization reassures children as they feel secure and part of a group. The first part of this project will be dedicated to recognising and expressing emotions and comparing them, using body language.

In the following part, the children will play sensory games. Who will have the same reactions? Who will have different reactions? Do they all like the feel of soft feathers or rough bark? Do they all like the smell of coffee? Through these activities the children can discover more about themselves and their peers, which in turn sparks special bonds between the group. Whatever their reactions, it is important to respect differences and similarities.

Animals, Nature and Us

Many animals create special friendships and strong family ties within their group just like us. For example, penguins huddle together to protect each other from the freezing cold, the members of a herd of elephants look after each other's calves while bees work together to feed and protect the Queen Bee. *Our Busy Bees* are going to explore this wonderful animal kingdom, venturing through varied habitats in search of these intriguing animal communities.

Understanding the Life Cycle of a Plant

Through reading topic related stories, planting seeds and bulbs and looking after our school garden, the children will be able to observe the life cycle of plants and discover the importance of bees and other insects for them and us.

The Importance of being a Conscientious Citizen

In the last topic, the Busy Bees are going to piece together real-life stories of essential workers in our town. How do they participate and support the community?

Little gestures can make a big difference so what can we do to help our class community, our school and even our town? Let's get busy!

How the project will be carried out

Play, in its many forms, is an important part of the project, as it is through play that children learn. They continue to develop social skills as they play in groups and develop their own identity in relation to others and the surrounding environment. Play allows them to discover, feel, make decisions and make choices - actions which they will then experiment with in real life. Through play, children also begin to learn to respect rules, take turns and other essential skills for their development.

The classroom is organized into different areas. These are often linked to the Early Years didactic project with a variety of activities for the children to choose from and a range of materials for them

to use. These stimulating areas provide teachers with a perfect opportunity to observe and listen to the children, allowing them to create activities in response to their needs and interests as they change and develop through the year.

Early Years' Google Classroom

Didactic digital learning (DDI- 'Didattica Digitale Integrata' at school and LEAD – 'Legami Educativi a Distanza' from home) has become an integrated part of the Italian national curriculum. Smiling has chosen to give each class its own virtual classroom where teachers post photos of activities and special events. They can also share extra activities, songs or games, linked to class topics. This is ideal for families who would like to reinforce learning at home and take part in school life. Families are encouraged to visit Google Classroom regularly and are welcome to post comments or photos of work done by the children at home.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Meetings with Teachers

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for families and school to work together and focus on the child and his/her learning journey. They are held at school or online and can be booked by emailing or telephoning the office. Parents who choose online will be given a code in order to join the video conference on 'Meet', accessed by their child's account, which they receive when they enrol at Smiling.

Meeting Times:

- *Beatrice Colomobani, Cecilia Masina & Erika Ongaro: Wednesdays 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.*
- *Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani (EY Coordinators): Thursdays 2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.*

What to Bring:

- A soft bag with several complete changes of clothes to be kept at school. The uniform needs to be included as well as: pairs of comfortable trousers (without buttons, zips or ties), t-shirts, pants, knickers and socks suitable for the season.
- A change of shoes
- 1 packet of wet-wipes
- For children who sleep in the afternoon, a soft bag which contains a small flame-resistant pillow (25cm x 40cm x 5cm) with a pillow case and a flame-resistant cover/blanket (75cm x 100cm) suitable for the season
- A dummy and carrying case, if still used, to be given home each day to be sanitized.
- An A4 cardboard folder with elastic.

PLEASE LABEL THE ABOVE ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Reminders:

- **School uniform is compulsory.** This consists of the school t-shirt or dress and the jumper, hooded top or tank top with the school logo. All pupils are expected to wear plain navy blue trousers/leggings or skirt and plain navy blue tights.
- Shoes without laces and trousers without buttons/fastenings to allow children to move freely during activities and to encourage autonomy
- Toys, soft toys and books from home are not allowed
- For safety reasons, bracelets, necklaces and jewellery in general are not allowed.

DAILY ROUTINES

Snack

At 9.45 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. a healthy snack is available for the children. It is a time to sit together, taste new foods and develop language skills. Snack consists of fresh, seasonal fruit, crackers or

biscuits and sometimes yoghurt or a cake. On Friday afternoons there is a special snack prepared by our cook. Please do not bring food into school.

Lunch

The children eat lunch at 11.50 a.m. in the lunchroom. The school cook prepares all meals and we encourage the children to try new foods and to eat on their own. Lunch consists of a first course and a second course, followed by fresh fruit or a desert. The menu, which can be found on the school's website, provides a variety of well-balanced and healthy dishes which also includes regional cuisine. International festivals are also celebrated and children are encouraged to try dishes from different countries.

Sleep Time

The Busy Bees take an afternoon nap from 1 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. in their classroom supervised by teachers who puts on soft music, read a story and create a relaxing environment. Each child has a nursery school bed and a bottom sheet which are both provided and washed by the school. The pillow, pillow case, sheet and covers supplied by the family will be sent home every Friday and should be returned on the following Monday. If a dummy is still used, it needs to be brought in a clearly labelled carrying case and will be given home each day to be sanitised.

Children who do not sleep are encouraged to relax with their class friends.

DAILY SCHEDULE

The Busy Bees' parents can bring and collect their children directly from the classroom.

8.00 a.m. – 9.30*a.m.	Arrival. Free-play in the class/garden. * We advise that children arrive by 9.15 a.m. and no later
9.15 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	Toilet
9.30 a.m. - 9.45 a.m.	Carpet Time
9.45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Snack
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Music or games in the garden/classroom
10.30 a.m.– 11 a.m.	Structured Activities
11 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Garden
11.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.	Singing/ Dancing/ Story Time. Toilet
11.50 a.m.– 12.10 p.m.	Lunch
12.10 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Garden or free-play in class
12.45 p.m.	Children who do not stay in the afternoon can be collected (main entrance)
1.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	Toilet & Sleep time
3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	Waking up and toilet
3.45 p.m.- 4 p.m.	Afternoon snack
4 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Carpet Time
4.15 p.m.	Home time