



## **BUSY BEES**

**ANNUAL PROJECT  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024**

**Coordinators**

**Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani**

## INTRODUCTION

# 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll'

It is time to 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll' with this year's exciting Early Years' project as the children explore sounds and investigate movement using their bodies!

## THE BUSY BEES' PROJECT:

### It is time to get moving!

The Busy Bees are getting ready to 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll' to a wide range of music and beats while focusing on how different parts of their bodies can move in a variety of ways. What happens to our bodies when we are angry or frustrated, happy or excited? Through stories, songs, dancing, yoga, gym and games in the garden the Busy Bees will begin to explore their emotions in relation to their bodies and discover how their posture and facial expressions change as their emotions do.

### It is time to move around our town!

The Busy Bees, in the second part of their project will be looking at how they can move around their classroom, the school and its gardens and gym using their bodies in imaginative ways, developing a variety of gross motor skills while exploring various large and small equipment to develop balance and coordination. Along the way, they will investigate objects and materials on a large and small scale, work in pairs and small groups to 'Shake, Rock n' Roll' them. They will learn to follow simple instructions to complete a task and investigate smaller materials using their senses, always working in pairs, small groups and as a whole class to promote cooperative play and a sense of community. This journey will bring them to the final part of their project as they begin to talk about how they move around Ferrara, how they travel to and from school, the green areas they play in, the people they meet and the sights, sounds and tastes of Ferrara.

## 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

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 parents who would like to take part in school life and reinforce learning at home. 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:

- *Federica Lattuga & Laura Bubola: Mondays 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 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
- A toothbrush and toothpaste (with child's initials) in a clearly labelled, washable bag which can be hung up
- 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.

### Brushing Teeth

Every day after lunch the children brush their teeth with adult supervision. On Fridays the toothbrush case is sent home to be checked and sanitised thoroughly then returned to school on Monday mornings.

### 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 accompany and collect their children from their 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' (Good morning, Who is here today? What's the weathertoday?)
9.45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Snack
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Structured activities (story time, annual project...) or games in the garden
10.30 a.m.– 11 a.m.	Structured activities (gym, music...)
11 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Games in the garden or in class
11.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.	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.	Brushing teeth, toilet Sleep
3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	Waking up and toilet
3.45 p.m.- 4 p.m.	Afternoon snack & songs
4 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Home time (classroom)