



BUBBLY & LIVELY BUTTERFLIES

**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 Butterflies' Project:

Let's 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll' from head to toe as the Butterflies investigate movement and rhythm through circle games, music, dance and gym games. The first part of the project will encourage the children to work on a large scale in the garden and gym as they negotiate obstacles, play line games, move in imaginative ways and develop listening skills by following instructions and playing sound games. They will move from left to right, up and down, in and out with the help of Coding activities. They will work in small groups to use their bodies to make shapes, letter and numbers, play fun cooperative games and races to encourage teamwork and cooperative play.

In the second part of the project they will transform these large movements onto paper – on a smaller scale as they begin to write letters and numbers correctly, orientate themselves in their exercise books and develop a variety of fine motor skills in preparation for First Grade.

The third part of the Butterflies' project takes on a more 'scientific' approach as the children will investigate materials which you can 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll', developing a curiosity for how things move and work using their senses. The Butterflies will be encouraged to ask questions, investigate, develop logical thinking and find solutions while learning how to record results like real scientists!

OTHER PROJECTS & OBJECTIVES

Il mio grande libro delle storie (an Italian project)

Each month, the children focus on a specific story in Italian and illustrate their favourite part and characters from the book. Each child's pictures are collected and made into a special album for him/her to keep and look through at home at the end of the school year.

Learning objectives: *to have a positive approach to books and literature. To listen attentively to a variety of stories developing an increasing understanding for the "moral" and particular meaning of a story, discussing ideas and opinions together. To continually develop confidence to use spoken language to interact, communicate and express oneself. To develop the ability to retell stories expressively by altering the voice. To recall and interpret stories through drawings, continually developing fine motor skills. To feel proud of achievements.*

Un Po' di me...in valigia (an Italian project)

The children take turns to take home a suitcase in which to put three special objects to bring to school. On Monday, the child opens it in front of his/her friends during Carpet Time and shows everyone the three items, explaining what they represent and why they are important for him/her. This fun project enables the children to get to know each other better, to develop language skills and to listen to others.

Learning objectives: *To observe and describe the personal objects' characteristics. To develop and use specific language to be able to explain, tell a story, express ideas and opinions, reflecting and answering questions during the conversation.*

My Weekend (a specific English project)

This project was created to give the children an opportunity to talk about their weekend when they return to school on Mondays. The children are encouraged to listen to each other's news and to learn a little bit more about their friends' interests outside school. 'My Weekend' gives reading and writing opportunities to the Butterflies who will continue this project in First Grade.

Learning objectives: *To recall and talk about the weekend sharing significant personal experiences. To begin to develop a concept of time. To continue to develop self-confidence and esteem for talking in front of others and in turn, listen to others appropriately, respecting turns and developing an awareness of the listener. To learn about others and their lives, developing curiosity, sensitivity and respect for others. To extend and experiment with new vocabulary, developing syntax, using the present tenses and beginning to use some past simple tense verbs. To ask and answer questions. To develop "writing" skills and label drawings.*

Music

The children have music lessons with the school's English music teacher each week. During this precious time, the children explore a variety of instruments and develop listening skills and rhythm. They acquire a repertoire of songs while dancing and moving to music from around the world. The music teacher works with the class teachers to link activities to class topics too.

Chinese Cultural Project

The Butterflies take part in an interesting project with the Chinese teacher. Through music, songs, drama, dance, art and language games the children will explore China and its culture.

Coding

Coding is an important part of the children's curriculum especially in this digital era. The teachers create a variety of Coding activities during the year which are closely linked to the class topics. These help the children to develop problem-solving skills, communication skills, mathematics, creativity and writing.

Festivals and Celebrations

Throughout the year, the children are involved in celebrating various school events, national and international festivals through art and craft activities, drama, presentations, traditional games, music and food. The Butterflies also participate in House competitions and assemblies with the older children. Here are a few examples:

- *Balloon festival*
- *Mid-autumn Moon Festival*
- *Halloween*
- *Bonfire Night*
- *Thanksgiving*
- *Christmas*
- *Chinese New Year*
- *International week (school event)*
- *International Day of Families*
- *Carnival*
- *Easter*
- *Sports Day (school event)*

Early Years' Google Classroom

Smiling has chosen to give each class its own virtual classroom where teachers post photos of 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

What to bring:

- A soft bag with a complete change of clothing to be kept at school. The school 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
- 2 packs of wet-wipes to use in the bathroom
- A toothbrush and toothpaste (with child's initials) in a clearly labelled, washable bag which can be hung up
- An A4 cardboard folder with an elastic closure
- 1 medium-sized bag used every day, to and from school, which contains 2 snacks. Water is provided by school throughout the day
- 3 A4 exercise books with big-squared paper (1cm squares)
- 1 A4 exercise book with wide-lined paper (1 cm lines)
- A postcard or photograph from the summer holidays
- A pencil case with one or two compartments containing:
 - 2 writing pencils
 - 1 pencil sharpener
 - 1 rubber
 - 3 large glue sticks
 - 1 pair of scissors
 - Coloured pencils
 - Thick coloured pens (in a separate container if necessary)

- Thin coloured pens (in a separate container if necessary).

All items in the pencil case must be clearly labelled 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.
- Toys, soft toys and books are not allowed;
- Bottles and flasks of drink are not allowed;
- For safety reasons bracelets, necklaces and jewellery in general are not allowed;
- Butterflies is a full day.

The 4 Exercise Books

Parents will be sent an email when the exercise books are needed. Please keep them at home until then.

Folder & Pencil Case

Every Friday the children take home their folder with their pictures collected during the week. The children need to empty this folder and bring it back on Monday morning empty. They will also take home their pencil case to be checked together with parents. Please make sure that pencils are sharpened and there is a writing pencil. Please check that they have a glue stick and scissors. Please put names on where possible.

DAILY ROUTINES

Snack

The children bring **two snacks from home** each day in a medium-sized bag. Morning snack is at 10.15 a.m. and afternoon snack is at 3.30 p.m. This is similar to Primary school and helps the Butterflies prepare for this future routine. They are also encouraged to eat nicely and tidy up any crumbs on their desk after snack.

Lunch

Butterflies have lunch at 12.30 p.m. in the lunchroom. The school cook prepares all meals in the kitchen of Porta Mare. Lunch is served by the assistant who encourages children to use complete sentences when asking for food ("Can I have pasta please?"). Lunch is an opportunity for children to develop independence and language skills as they develop preferences and try new food, while also learning not to waste it. The menu offers a variety of healthy and balanced dishes that include regional cuisine. International festivals are also celebrated and children are encouraged to try food from around the world.

Butterflies then, like the Primary children, play freely with the assistant. Activities start again at 2.30 p.m. with the teacher.

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 and returned to school on Monday mornings.

Meetings with Teachers

Meetings with the class teachers 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 are given when they enroll at Smiling.

Meeting Times:

Bubbly Butterflies:

- *Philippa Waterhouse & Barbara Tumiatì: Tuesdays 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.*

Lively Butterflies

- *Joanita Stander & Barbara Tumiatì: Thursdays 1.30 -2.30 p.m.*

Early Years Coordinators

- *Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani: Thursdays 2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.*

Other Teachers in Butterflies

- *Chinese cultural project teacher – Marzia Filippini*
- *Music - Roy Davison*
- *Bubbly Butterflies' break & lunchtime assistant- Anna Nigro & Martina Balboni*
- *Lively Butterflies' lunchtime assistant – Roberto Agnelli*

DAILY SCHEDULE – BUBBLY BUTTERFLIES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 a.m. – 9.15 a.m. Arrival & free play	Barbara	Philippa	Joanita	Barbara	Philippa
9.15 a.m. – 10/ 10. 15 Tidy up 'Carpet Time' Activity 1	Barbara GYM	Philippa	Joanita/Marzia CHINESE	Barbara/Roy MUSIC	Philippa GYM
10.15 a.m. – 11 a.m.	SNACK & FREE-PLAY /GARDEN				
11 a.m. – Midday Activity 2	Joanita	Barbara	Barbara	Philippa	Joanita
Midday - 12. 30 p.m. 'Carpet Time' with games/ stories /songs /SmartBoard	Joanita	Barbara	Barbara	Philippa	Joanita
12.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.	LUNCH & PLAY TIME WITH ASSISTANT				
2.30 p.m.- 3.20 p.m. Activity 3	Philippa	Joanita	Barbara / Philippa BBF & LBF	Barbara	Philippa
3.20 p.m. - 4.15 p.m. Toilet, snack & 'Carpet Time'	Philippa	Joanita	Barbara	Barbara	Philippa
4.15 p.m. Home time					

DAILY SCHEDULE – LIVELY BUTTERFLIES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 a.m. – 9.15 a.m. Arrival & free-play	Joanita	Barbara	Barbara	Philippa	Joanita
9.15 a.m. – 10 / 10.15 Tidy-up 'Carpet Time' Activity 1	Joanita	Barbara/ Roy MUSIC	Barbara GYM	Philippa GYM	Joanita/Marzia CHINESE
10.15 – 11 a.m.	SNACK & FREE-PLAY / GARDEN				
11 a.m. – Midday Activity 2	Philippa	Philippa	Joanita	Barbara	Joanita
Midday - 12. 30 p.m. 'Carpet Time' with games/ stories /songs /SmartBoard	Philippa	Philippa	Joanita	Barbara	Joanita
12.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.	LUNCH & PLAY TIME WITH ASSISTANT				
2.30 p.m.- 3.20 p.m. Activity 3	Barbara	Philippa	Philippa / Barbara BBF & LBF	Joanita	Barbara
3.20 p.m. - 4.15 p.m. Toilet, snack & 'Carpet Time'	Barbara	Philippa	Philippa	Joanita	Barbara
4.15 P.M. Home time					