



Chimneytots Summer 1 2026



Welcome back, we hope you have all enjoyed your Easter break. This term we welcome new friends who will be joining us over the next couple of weeks.

Our topics this half term are **Sunshine and Sunflowers** and **Creep, Crawl and Wriggle**.

Sunshine and Sunflowers



This seasonal project provides opportunities for outdoor learning and teaches children how to care for the plants and animals in their local environment and how to stay safe in the sun.

Creep, Crawl and Wriggle



This mini project teaches children about invertebrates that live in their gardens and local environment.

Engage

Sunshine and Sunflowers

- Explore the environment and talk about the plants, trees and wildlife that live there.
- Talk about how the plants are cared for and what they need to grow and survive.
- Encourage them to look for a range of different flora and fauna in the environment.
- Take photographs of the different areas, the plants and animals that live there and any special features.

Creep, Crawl and Wriggle

- Show the children the Minibeast safari video.
- Invite them to talk about the minibeasts they see and where they might live.
- Tell the children that you will go on a minibeast safari in the pre-school garden or school grounds.
- Ask them where they should look to find minibeasts.
- Provide the children with magnifying glasses to look carefully at the minibeasts and cameras or tablets to take photographs.
- Have fun searching in trees, under rocks and in leaf litter and soil for minibeasts.
- Create a photo book of the minibeasts you discover with quotes from the children about what they saw.

Develop

Children will then learn about...

- Caring for growing seeds and plants and describe observable features of different types of plants and trees.
- How to describe the characters, events and settings in stories that have been read to them using recently introduced vocabulary.
- Using a range of media, tools and techniques to create images, express ideas and show different emotions.
- To name and describe basic features of plants and trees.
- To follow instructions when in different environments and when handling simple equipment, such as scissors.
- Understand that they must wait for their turn to use equipment or take part in activities.
- To engage in conversations about stories and explore the meanings of new words that they hear in stories, rhymes and poems.
- Begin to observe and talk about living things in the local environment.
- Explore the composition of numbers to five and compare numbers.
- Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using sentences containing four to six words, articulating most sounds and simple words.
- Join in with games that include racing, chasing, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.

Supporting your child at home

Sun Shine and Sunflowers

- Grow some quick growing plants together, such as salad leaves, radishes or cress.
- Plan and go on a picnic.
- Go on a local walk and talk about the changes that have happened to living things throughout the year.
- Share and discuss the Did you Know? resource about summer, garden plants and animals.

Creep Crawl and Wriggle

- Go on safari to look for minibeasts that live in your garden or park.
- Make a bug hotel from plant pots, small rocks, stones, bark and leaves and see if minibeasts visit.
- Research some fantastic facts about minibeasts from around the world.
- Share and discuss the Did you Know? resource about minibeasts.

Enjoy learning with your child!

Thank you for your continued support with your child's education.



Other Key Information



Chimneytots Summer 2026



Outside play



Hopefully during this term, we will begin to have warmer weather but as some days can still be chilly, please ensure your child still has a coat when coming to pre-school. We ask you to provide a bag containing a change of clothes for your child if they get wet.

(Please make sure **all** items are labelled with your child's name ~ a biro written name is great!!)

Lunchtime



Dinners

- A daily hot lunch is available from the school at a cost of £2.61. This can be booked on your Arbor app where you can make a choice for your child, please ensure payment is made by 8.00am on the day the meal is required.
- Please ensure you notify a member of staff when you bring your child into pre-school that a dinner has been requested.

Packed lunches

- Should comply with our Healthy Eating Policy, children should not have sweets and chocolate unless it has a biscuit or sponge inside. We are a nut free school so please refrain from using **any item containing nuts** in your children's packed lunch, please ensure any grapes are cut length ways and we ask no popcorn comes into school due to high risk of choking.
- We also ask that the lunch boxes are named as we have a number that are the same.



It is important that you have activated your child's Arbor account. This is where all information is sent from: newsletters, diary dates, lunches, trips and special occasions/events.

Water bottles



Please ensure your child brings a **named** water bottle with them for each session. Bottles should contain **water** only. Squash can be provided in a bottle or carton for a lunchtime drink. No fizzy drinks.

Other Information



Health & Safety

- We must stress that your children are your responsibility whilst waiting to come in for the session and **they should not be playing on or using the equipment/toys.**
- Please ensure **medication**, etc are **not** left in the children's bags. If your child needs medication you will need to complete a Medical Indemnity Form and hand the medication to staff to put out of reach.
- **Jewellery:** We do not allow children to wear jewellery (children's plastic included) other than small stud earrings.

Cars

- We would respectfully remind you that if it is unavoidable to bring your car at drop-off/pick up time, you must observe the speed limit and be courteous in both parking and opening doors as many pedestrians (often with pushchairs) are nearby.

Toys

- We respectfully request that toys are not brought in from home as it can cause distress if they get lost or damaged.

Clothing & Shoes

- As our aim is to promote independence, please ensure your child wears clothing manageable for them when going to the toilet (they sometimes leave it until the last minute). In addition, shoes/boots they can put on and take off easily by themselves.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. You are welcome to email or call the office to speak with your child's keyperson who will then contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support,

Chimneytots Team

