**Narrative:**

**Fantastic Minibeasts: Where can you find them and why are they important?**

In Spring 2020, Nursery and Reception children embarked on their inaugural expedition called ‘Fantastic Minibeasts’. Children had to answer the guiding question:

‘Where can you find them and why are they important?’

The Learning Targets were:

* To talk about the features of their own immediate environment, making observations of animals.
* To represent their own ideas through art, music, dance and stories.
* To write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others using their phonic knowledge and knowledge of tricky words.
* To select the correct numeral to represent 1 to 10 objects.

The immersion of our expedition involved inviting some mini visitors (Insect Lore Caterpillars) to our classrooms which generated awe and wonder. The children were keen to find out more about these and other minibeasts in our garden. We had to look after our new arrivals and nurture them, monitoring daily changes in their being. We also investigated the different types of minibeasts that we may find locally to us and looked closely at pictures. We became even more enthused as we read our core text, ‘Twist and Hop Minibeast Bop’ and enhanced our classrooms to reflect our interest in the new expedition. After an exciting start, we learnt about the prospect of making beautiful final products for our outdoor learning space to reflect our learning about minibeasts in our environment. We got to see a finished product designed by our grown up’s and this made us want to make even better, more beautiful minibeast artwork for ourselves.

At the beginning we received an exciting visit from some real life minibeasts where we got to ask lots of questions and found out many interesting facts. We also went on field work to Austerfield where we had a fabulous day hunting for minibeasts and learning about where they live and why they are important.

Following these exciting events, we got to work and were able to produce our own fact sheets about minibeasts. We were also able to produce some beautiful artwork, using different media and materials. These were then sent away to be made into fabulous leaf shaped and circle shaped signs for our new minibeast garden in our outdoor area.

Having found out lots of information about minibeasts we were then able to start having even more fun by behaving like different creatures, using our imagination to move, sing and dance ready to put on a show for our garden party event.

Our expedition culminated with a celebration of our learning at a fabulous garden party in our outdoor area where we showed off our beautiful work to our parents and other special visitors. We had a very exciting time and we prepared some minibeast inspired snacks for everyone to enjoy! But now we have a fabulous space in our EYFS garden which we, and other children who attend our school in future years will be able to enjoy and use our final product to enhance their knowledge.