



LIVELY BUTTERFLIES

DIDACTIC PROJECT

SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

Coordinators

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AN UNUSUAL YEAR: BEING, BELONGING AND BECOMING

Smiling's goals are the well-being and happiness of the children. Although the times we are living through are uncertain, with the enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism of the teachers along with the support of families, we offer our children a well-organized and lively environment in which they can grow and become citizens of the world, ready to face new challenges.

Being

The Butterflies' project begins by talking about their holidays with the help of a photograph and a class graph. They will go on to present the members of their family to each other in a special 'Show and Tell' activity and create class displays of their family and pets. The children will also draw, paint and talk about their homes and where they live in Ferrara. They are going to learn about other countries through their friends and teachers' experiences and will be encouraged to ask and answer questions to find out more about each other.

Belonging

The children are going to explore the theme of friendship, the importance of sharing, being kind and helping each other. This is closely linked to the topic of emotions as children learn to distinguish between them and express them appropriately. The Butterflies will be encouraged to look after their classroom, become autonomous, recycle, create class rules and talk about being part of a community.

Activities are carried out in pairs, in small groups and as a whole class, taking turns and respecting each other.

Becoming

How do seeds become flowers? How do chicks become birds? How do caterpillars become butterflies? How does summer become autumn? How do we grow and change during the year? These are just some of the topics which the children are going to discover during the first part of the project 'becoming'. They will go on to investigate other opposites such as how night becomes day, light becomes dark and hard becomes soft.

In the last part of the project, the children will become citizens of the world by learning about other countries, cultures and traditions. What is school like in other countries? What festivals do they celebrate? What are their homes like? What is the weather like?

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Being

Describe physical features and develop drawing skills, using appropriate colours to draw our face and body. Talk about and represent our emotions through stories, colours and music. Present ourselves to the class. Answer simple questions about ourselves linked to who we are. Ask questions to find out more about others. Talk about and describe our family, pets and our home. Discuss our favourite things, our likes and dislikes and create questionnaires to find out about others' likes and dislikes, hobbies and interests in the class. Compare results and record them.

Belonging

Continue to develop the concept of time, daily routines at school, the days of the week, months, seasons and special events. Extend and use vocabulary linked to time: before, after, next, tomorrow, yesterday and today. Explore calendars, agendas and diaries. Continue to develop friendships and work together in a variety of situations. Continue to develop social skills and language skills for asking politely, thanking, asking to join in and help include others in play. Continue to develop language for asking for help and for offering to help others. Use specific phrases and language for sorting out arguments or any problems which may arise. Be kind and thoughtful towards others and respect their needs and feeling too. Develop skills for working individually, in pairs, in small groups and as a whole class. Find out more about friends and teachers in the class. Talk about class rules and what it means to be part of a 'community'. Develop a sense of responsibility and care towards friends. Look after school equipment, the garden, classroom and personal belongings. Feel

proud of personal achievements as well as group and class work. Find out about a typical day in other schools around the world.

Becoming

Learn about different countries through events, celebrations, presentations, Skype projects, children and teachers in the class. Develop an interest and curiosity for other people, places and wildlife. Explore art, languages, music and dance from other countries. Experiment with movement and rhythm. Ask questions and make relevant comments. Compare and contrast daily routines, homes, school, habitats and food in other countries. Try new experiences with enthusiasm. Have a positive approach to new situations. Discover differences and similarities. Talk about and present Ferrara, our school and Italy to children in other countries.

OTHER PROJECTS

Il mio grande libro delle storie (Italian project)

Have a positive approach to books and literature. Listen attentively to a variety of stories developing an increasing understanding for the “moral” of a story. Discuss ideas and opinions together. Continually develop confidence to use spoken language to interact, communicate and express oneself. Develop the ability to retell stories expressively by altering the voice. Recall and interpret stories through drawings, continually developing fine motor skills.

My weekend project (English project)

Recall and talk about the weekend sharing significant personal experiences. Begin to develop a concept of time. Continue to develop self-confidence and esteem for talking in front of others and be aware of the listener. In turn, listen to others carefully. Learn about others and their lives, developing curiosity, sensitivity and respect for them. Extend and experiment with new vocabulary. Continue to developing syntax using the present tenses and begin to use some past simple tense verbs. Ask and answer questions. Develop “writing” skills and begin to label drawings.

OTHER SUBJECTS

Music

The children have music lessons with the school's English music teacher, twice a 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 are going to 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 class topics. These help the children to develop problem-solving skills, mathematics, creativity, communication skills and writing.

Festival and celebrations

Throughout the year the children will take part in a variety of international celebrations and school events through art and craft activities, traditional games and music. Here are a few examples:

- Balloon festival
- Mid-autumn Moon Festival

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- Halloween
- Bonfire Night
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- Chinese New Year
- International week
- Book Day
- Carnival
- Easter
- Sports Day

Some events have been suspended due to the current health emergency situation.

USEFUL INFORMATION

What to bring

- A soft bag with a complete change of uniform and underwear for the current season, to be kept at school;
- A change of shoes to use in case of an emergency;
- 2 packs of wet-wipes to use in the bathroom;
- 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 compartment 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;
- 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.

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, glue stick and scissors. It is important to label all items where possible.

Snack time

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

Lunchtime

The Butterflies eat lunch at 12.30 p.m. and is served by the Butterflies' lunch assistants. 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 dishes from different countries.

The Butterflies then, like the Primary children, spend the rest of their lunchtime with their assistant. Their teacher returns at 2.30 p.m. ready to start activities again.

Meetings with teachers

Meetings with the class teachers are online and can be booked by emailing or telephoning the office. Parents 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.

- *Barbara Tumiati & Angelica Casazza:*
Fridays 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
- *Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani (EY Coordinators):* *Thursdays*
2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Lunchtime teacher – Angelica Casazza

Chinese cultural project – Marzia Filippini

Music - Roy Davison

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

Parents are asked to bring and collect their child on time to avoid crowding outside the school and to keep classes separate.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7.50 – 8.00 8.40 – 8.50 Arrival Times	Angelica	Barbara	Barbara	Angelica	Angelica
9.15 - 10.15 <i>Carpet Time</i> Activity 1	Angelica	Barbara MUSIC with ROY	Barbara CHINESE with MARZIA	Angelica MUSIC with ROY	Angelica
10.15 - 10.45	BREAK				
10.45 – 12 Activity 2	Angelica	Angelica	Barbara	Barbara	Angelica
12 - 12.30 SMART Board games/ Carpet Time	Angelica	Angelica	Barbara	Barbara	Angelica
12.30 - 14.30	LUNCH & PLAY TIME				
14.30 - 15.30 Activity 3	Barbara	Angelica PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Angelica	Angelica	Barbara PHYSICAL EDUCATION
15.30 - Snack & <i>Carpet Time</i> 16.00 – 16.10 Home Time	Barbara	Angelica	Angelica	Angelica	Barbara