

# Mad about minibeasts!

Minibeasts is a name for lots of different small creatures or 'creepy-crawlies'. There are lots of different types of minibeasts and they like to live in different places. Some minibeasts like worms, beetles and woodlice like to live in dark, damp places such as under logs or rocks. Some minibeasts such as butterflies or ladybirds can fly through the air and like to be out in the open. Minibeasts are good for the environment. Bees help spread pollen so that more flowers can grow and worms help break down fallen leaves to make nutrients for the soil.

## What is an insect?

Insects are small animals with 6 legs. Most of them have wings and antennae. Insect bodies have 3 parts – head, thorax and abdomen. Some have a hard outer shell a hard outer shell called an exoskeleton.

## Books we will be reading



## Vocabulary

**Pupa:** part of the change insect make to become an adult.

**Metamorphosis:** many insects go through 4 stages or changes: egg, larva, pupa and adult.

**Eco-system:** made up of living and non-living things in an area; plants, animals, insects, water, rocks etc.

**Antennae:** the feelers on top of insects head that help the to make sense of the world around them.

**Thorax:** the middle section of an insects body.

**Exoskeleton:** means 'outside skeleton'. It is the hard shell that supports and protects an insect's body.

**Arachnid:** all types of spiders (8 legs). Scorpions mites and ticks are also classed as arachnids because they have 8 legs too!