

## Year R—caterpillars, chicks and farm visit!

At the beginning of March, some eggs and an incubator arrived in the Year R classroom . All of the children were fascinated about what might happen next and thoroughly enjoyed watching and learning about them. The children took it in turns to take on the responsibility of 'egg monitors', checking the humidity and water levels. Once we got to day 21 we started to see movement and watched in awe as the chicks hatched out! Our five chicks stayed with us for a few days and we had fun thinking of names for them, which we voted for, and watching them eat and grow. The eggs came from the local Blackwater Rare breeds in Ower and were dropped off and collected by a friendly lady who spoke to us about what happens to the chicks next. We were sad to see them go but had a chance to see some fully grown chickens during a visit to a local small holding and reflect about how our chicks will have grown and what they might be doing now! We were very grateful to Debbie and Roger and their generosity at letting us come to visit; we had to make sure that we were on our best behaviour!

We have also had some class caterpillars this term and after nearly 6 weeks since their arrival , they were ready to be released as Painted Lady butterflies! Once they were out of their cocoons we worked together and took on the responsibility of collecting flowers, leaves and sugar water for them explore and feed from in the net. Once they had all hatched out, we took them onto the field with year 1 and 2 and watched as they stretched their wings and went their separate ways. A few reluctant ones came back to our outdoor area and will gradually leave when ready... Perhaps to visit our butterfly gardens that we made with our families.

