

# WM5 Pre Primary

For the past two weeks children of Pre Primary WM5 have been watching the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly happen right in their classroom.



The eggs are laid on milkweed plants. They hatch into baby caterpillars, also called the larvae. It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch.



The children watched the caterpillars eat their way through two milkweed plants. The caterpillars ate and ate and ate and grew into very fat caterpillars!

One day when the children came to school, a caterpillar had changed into a chrysalis (pupa stage) and a few days later the other caterpillar did the same. This is the start of the process of metamorphosis, which continues for about another 10 days as the chrysalis is changing into a butterfly.



Now we are watching and waiting for the special event, when the butterfly itself emerges. It is due to happen on March 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

The butterfly has a fairly short life of only about two to six weeks. This butterfly will then die after laying eggs for the next generation of Monarch butterflies.



Pop by our classroom and have a look at our beautiful Monarch Butterfly enclosure before it is too late!