

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Nursery parents/carers,

### **Nursery Curriculum Letter – Spring (2<sup>nd</sup> half)**

The first half of the spring term has really gone by in a flash! The children have worked so hard in all areas of learning and are growing into independent active learners. They have acquired many new skills including helping one another with tasks, putting on their own coats, buttering their own toast, writing some or all of their names and recognising numbers 0-5. They all have a real thirst for knowledge and thoroughly enjoy learning new information and sharing it with others.

#### **Our Core Values**

Happiness: We spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: We care and are kind to all.

Respect: We treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: We work well with everyone.

#### **Nursery Staffing**

Nursery Manager: Mrs Halligan

Nursery Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Harrison, Miss Jones and Miss Kelly.

#### **Communication**

You can email Mrs Halligan directly on the Nursery email account and she will do her best to get back to you within a few working days.

acornclass@harefieldinfant.com

#### **Reading**

The children are proving to be really enthusiastic readers and love to retell stories that we have been reading in class. They are confidently using story maps through our talk for writing scheme and are learning to use the pictures in a book to tell the story. Encourage your child to read to you at home using the pictures in the book to tell you what is happening. Talk to them about the characters in the story: Who are they? What are they doing? How are they feeling? Make predictions about the story, what might happen next?

We have been learning the language first, next, after that and finally to support our story telling;

- First the family decide to go on a bear hunt
- Next they go through the grass, river, mud, forest and snowstorm
- After that they find the bear in the cave
- Finally, they run home and say, "We are never going on a bear hunt again!"

Encourage your child to use this language with you at home as you read and in day to day life, first we will get dressed, next we will brush our teeth, after that we will eat breakfast and finally we will go to school.

Library (story) books will continue to come home every Friday. These can be changed on a Friday providing the previous book is returned. This will be a book for you to read and enjoy with your child. We recommend that you read to your child every day and encourage them to look at books independently.

#### **Spring Term 2 Learning**

This term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This term's topic is 'Healthy me'. The children will be learning about their bodies and how they can look after them by eating healthy food, exercising, keeping clean and getting enough sleep. They will be taking part in activities such as sorting healthy and unhealthy foods into groups, tasting new fruits and vegetables, learning simple exercises such as star jumps and running on the spot in PE and practising brushing their teeth properly using a giant set of teeth and a toothbrush.

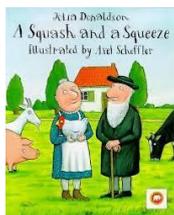
## Communication and Language

This term we will be learning how to ask each other questions and how to answer why questions. For example 'what is your favourite animal and why?' We will be encouraging the children to retell simple stories that they know well, remembering much of what happens without looking at the book. We have introduced partner talk to our carpet sessions which encourages the children to think about a question I have asked and discuss it with one another. They then have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the class. All of these experiences help your child to become a more confident speaker and listener which are both great life skills.

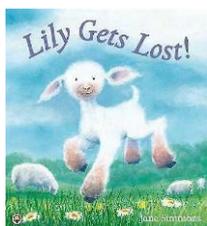
## English

English runs hand in hand with Communication and Language, with all our work being carried out through the use of stories.

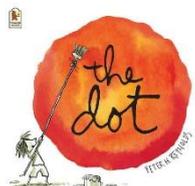
Our Key Text for this term are;



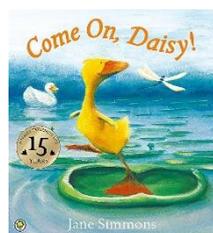
'A Squash and a Squeeze' is a fun story about an old woman whose house is too small. A wise old man encourages her to invite in one animal at a time until her house is a squash and squeeze! When she lets them all out again her house feels enormous and the old woman is happy. This book helps the children explore capacity, space and measure as well as different farm animals.



'Lily Gets Lost' is a story about a lamb who loses her mummy. She asks lots of different farm animals for help and listens to the different sounds and noises they make until finally she makes her way back to her mum. This book will teach the children about different farm animals and the sounds they make and the importance of asking for help if and when they need it.



'The Dot' is a wonderful story that explains colour mixing. We will be reading this book on the week of the Holi festival which is the festival of colours celebrated to signify the arrival of spring. The children will be taking part in colour mixing activities with paint, coloured water and chalk in the garden.



'Come on Daisy!' is a story about a curious little duckling who wants to go off exploring but she doesn't listen to her mummy and she gets lost. This story will help the children learn about the importance of listening to their grown-ups, of stranger danger and what to do if they ever get lost.

World book day is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, this is a chance for your child to come into school dressed as a character from their favourite story book.

## Physical Development

This half term Physical development and PSHE go hand in hand as we are learning all about making healthy choices about food, drink, activity and tooth brushing. We will be sending home tooth brushing charts for you to complete with your child morning and evening when they have brushed their teeth. We are encouraging the children to be independent in meeting their own care needs for example using the toilet and washing and drying their hands thoroughly. We will be visiting the hall and taking part in wake up shake up which is a dance programme that teaches the children to warm up their bodies, to remember and use a sequence of dance movements and cool down their bodies at the end. We will be continuing our write dance lessons which encourage the children to hold their pens with

their pinching fingers and copy a range of movements that will support them to form letters as they write. They will also continue to complete cutting and fine motor activities weekly, making their finger muscles stronger.

## Phonics



We are coming to the end of our phase one phonics scheme which sees us move onto rhyme, alliteration and oral blending and segmenting. We will explore rhyming through games such as making silly soup 'We're making soup that's silly. In goes a bug, a rug and a jug.' We sing rhyming songs where we give the children rhyming names like 'Harry Warry', We will read lots of rhyming stories and draw attention to the rhyming words

throughout. We will then move onto alliteration which explores words starting with the same letter like 'Angry Alligator' 'Terrifying Tiger' 'Happy Hippo'. Once the children have consolidated these skills we will move onto oral blending and segmenting which sees us putting sounds together to make words using our robot arms C-A-T, cat. D-O-G, dog. We will break down words as we use them with the children. Go and put on your C-O-A-T and we will go outside.

In the summer term we will begin to learn letters and sounds following the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme. More information will be sent out regarding the nearer the time.

## Mathematics

We follow a scheme called White Rose maths to teach children maths every day through short carpet sessions and then have lots of activities set up inside and outside for the children to practice developing what we have taught through their play.

This half terms phase is called 'Growing 6,7,8 and making 9 and 10'.

We will be exploring these phases by looking at mini beasts and counting their legs which have 6 and which have 8. Counting 6,7 and 8 objects and sorting them into containers and putting 2 groups of objects together to make 6, 7 and 8. We will be making pairs using patterned socks, playing snap and singing the animals went in two by two with our Noah's ark. Exploring length and height by measuring how tall we all are, the distance a car goes when we push it along the floor, who has the longest piece of playdough and who has the shortest. Looking at time by comparing photos of your child as a baby, a toddler and now and talking about how they have changed. Counting how many star jumps they can do in 30 seconds and how far they can throw something.

We will then move onto 9 and 10 by singing and acting out '10 green bottles', making 10 with construction and beads on a pipe cleaner. We will then be looking at 3d shapes through modelling materials and shape hunts. Finally, we will be looking at pattern and learning how to make a continuing pattern red, green, red, green, red, green. Also looking at patterns all around us, spots on our clothes or stripes on a zebra.

Look for numbers everywhere you go and point them out to your child, on a bus, your front door at the shops etc. This will help them to begin to recognise numbers.

Number Blocks on BBC is a great programme to support your children understanding of number.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

## Understanding the World

This half of the term is jam packed with opportunities to expand our knowledge of the world around us and many different celebrations. We will be experiencing pancake day, The Holi festival, St patricks day, Mothers day, Science week and Easter! Our topic is animals and we will be moving from wild animals to farm animals and learning how we get milk from cows and wool from sheep. We will look at the lifecycle of a chicken from egg, to chick, to chicken. We will take part in a number of fun experiments for science week which will encourage the children to make predictions about what they think will happen and make comments on the changes they see occurring. We will learn about people who help us, why they are so important and what to do in an emergency.



### Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design runs through all of our topics and the children always love to explore this area of the curriculum. Our role play area will be set up to support our learning of people who help us starting with a vets and moving onto a police station with a fire station outside. Our small world area will be a farm, mini beasts, Easter and people who help us and will be set up with a range of props, real life items, numbers, construction and toys to support this learning. Our construction area will see us building animal enclosures, vehicles and buildings to support our play using large and small construction as well as recycled materials. We will also learn colour mixing and pattern during the Holi festival.



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email on the class email account.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Halligan  
Nursery Manager