

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Nursery parents/carers,

### Nursery Curriculum Letter - Autumn term

We are so excited to be welcoming your children into Nursery and settling them in to our school community. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term, to help them learn the school rules, gain independence and begin to make friendships. This letter will briefly outline some of the engaging learning your children will take part in this term.

#### 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

Learning support assistants- Mrs Harrison and Miss Kelly

#### Communication

You can email Mrs Halligan directly on the Nursery email account we do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

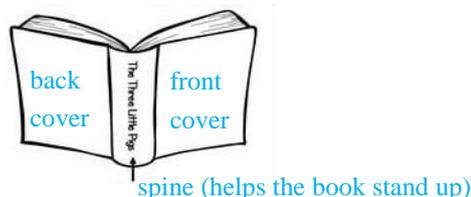
[acornclass@harefieldinfant.com](mailto:acornclass@harefieldinfant.com)

#### Reading

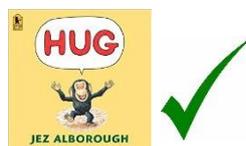
Library (story) books will come home every Friday. These can be changed on a Friday providing the previous book is returned. This will be a book for you to read and enjoy with your child. We recommend that you read to your child every day and encourage them to look at books independently.

When looking at books we teach children to:

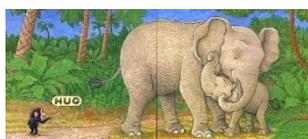
1. Name the front cover, back cover and spine of the book.



2. Make sure the book is the right way up by looking at the picture on the front cover.



3. Describe what they can see on the front cover and think about what the book might be about. For example: "I can see a monkey. Maybe the monkey is going to make some friends."
4. Turn pages one at a time, describing what they can see in the pictures on each page.



For example, "The mummy elephant is hugging the baby elephant. They are in the jungle. The monkey is pointing at them."

5. After reading the story encourage them to reflect about what they have read, for example you could ask:

- What happened in the story?
- Who were the characters?
- What did you like about it?

## Autumn Term Learning

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

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term we will be focusing on making sure the children feel safe and secure in their new learning environment by taking time to get to know them, showing them all the learning that can take place in different areas and how to independently access all the resources available. We will establish consistent routines through the use of visual time tables and our elephant golden rules. We will be focusing on expressing our feelings and considering the feelings of others as we learn to share and take turns fairly using sand timers to help us. We will use stories to talk through common emotions and what can be done to help us if we ever feel sad, worried or angry.

We use a scheme called JIGSAW to deliver weekly PSED lessons. This term we will be learning the topics 'Being me in my world' and 'Celebrating differences'. These topics cover making relationships with others, expressing our feelings, responding to and respecting others around us, following rules and routines, expressing our own wants and needs and accepting the needs of others.

### Communication and Language.

We will be learning to listen carefully to others and follow instructions to complete simple tasks, the pink elephant golden rule reminds us to listen. We will also be learning to join in with actions and sing a large number of songs and nursery rhymes by playing games like 'What's in the bag'. Your child will learn to listen to longer stories and join in with repeated refrains during our daily story times where they will sit on the carpet and enjoy some fruit and milk along with a story that is based on that week's topic of learning. The children are learning to communicate with one another using each other's names, we support this by playing circle games where we roll the ball to a friend and say their name using good eye contact.

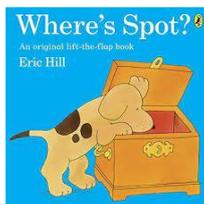
Remind your child to put their listening ears on each morning.



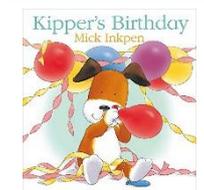
### English

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

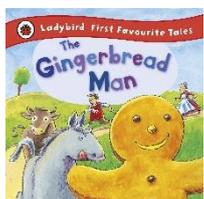
Our Key Text for this term are;



Spot is hiding and mummy is trying to find him. This story uses the language of preposition in, on, under, behind as well as being a fun and interactive lift the flap book. Children will play hide and seek in the garden, learn the different animals in the story and have a go at hiding their very own Spot the dog around the nursery.

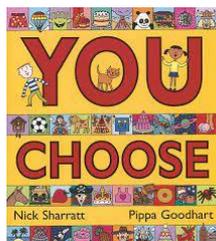


It's Kipper's birthday and he's having a party. Acorn nursery will be learning all about celebration's just like Kipper's party. The children will make their own invitations, will learn how to follow a recipe to bake fairy cakes and will create decorations to hang in the nursery for our very own party.



"Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man."

Expect to hear this phrase lots as we read and learn the story of the gingerbread man! This story is great for the children to join in with and they will have so much fun re-enacting it with their friends. They will have a chance to explore if a gingerbread man floats or sinks in water, how to make their very own gingerbread man and how to create a story map.



This story encourages the children to make choices.

“If you could go anywhere, where would you go?” “Seaside, forest, volcano, city, desert or outer space?”

“Who would you like as a friend?” “A pirate, an alien, a fairy, a robot, or Father Christmas?”

We will be encouraging the children to make their own choices and will be taking votes to decide what story to read at story time or what song to sing at song time. They will learn to compromise and that it's ok if they don't make the same choices as their friends. That they are independent and unique.

Each day the children will also be working on learning to recognise their names as they come into Nursery by finding their name card for self-registration and also independently accessing their tray and their peg.

### Physical Development

Physical development is a big part of our curriculum and is split into gross and fine motor skills. The gross motor skills use big muscles and are extremely important for getting children ready to write.

This term the children will be exploring our outdoor area and equipment learning to climb and balance, to ride the bikes and scooters and develop their ball skills by throwing and catching. We have fun Fridays where we play music, dance and wave ribbons and streamers to strengthen their arm muscles.

Fine motor skills are developed through activities such as playdough, learning to hold scissors correctly and making snips in paper, sticking making materials onto paper, placing puzzle pieces into a puzzle and beginning to hold a pencil with a tripod grip to make marks.



### Phonics



In Nursery we begin learning Phonics at phase 1. Phase 1 phonics focusses on the children's listening skills and the ability to differentiate between different sounds they can hear.

We play games such as animal sounds bingo where the children match the sounds they hear to the pictures on their board. We play musical instruments in a variety of ways e.g. loud, quiet, fast, slow and use our voices in different ways e.g. high, low, quiet, loud.

We will then move onto rhyme, alliteration and oral blending and segmenting.

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 that 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 'Just like Me'. Where we will be learning to; count, sort and match amounts and groups of objects. Concentrating on numbers to five. We will sort objects that are the same as or different to each other and look for similarities such as; all the shiny buttons, all the shapes with four sides, all the spotty socks....

We will then be comparing amounts, who has more? Who has less?

This can be learnt all over the nursery using playdough, building blocks and even at snack time.



We will also be learning to compare; capacity, mass and size. This can be explored in the sand and water with the language full, half full and empty. Also in the construction area using the language biggest, smallest, shortest, and tallest.

Finally we will learn about making simple repeated patterns, using objects to make patterns that repeat.

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

We will be exploring the seasonal changes as we move from Summer to Autumn to Winter. We will talk about what we can see and feel "The leaves have changed colour" "The wind is blowing, it's cold!" The children will make autumn collections as we go on an autumn hunt around the school grounds. They will learn about British wildlife and how some animals are nocturnal and that some hibernate during the winter.

We will learn and celebrate many different celebrations including Diwali, Halloween, Fireworks night, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

The children will learn about different countries the foods they eat and the homes they live in and will be talking about their families and homes, discussing similarities and differences with one another.



### Expressive Arts and Design

Each topic we cover is reflected in our small world and creative areas giving the children plenty of opportunities to further explore and immerse themselves in the learning. There will be ginger scented playdough for our gingerbread man topic, cauldrons, spells and potions for Halloween, a sleigh and a present wrapping station for Christmas. Children are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas with others and are praised for their efforts. We learn new songs weekly and will invite you in for a performance from time to time. The children will explore a range of musical instruments and learn how to use and play them correctly. They will also attend weekly write dance lessons which will be an opportunity for them to go on adventures with Yoyo and Meema, first they listen to a story, then to a song about the story, they then dance and join in with the actions related to the story and then draw the story, always holding the pen with their pinching fingers!



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

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Halligan