

Tuesday 25th February 2025

Dear Nursery parents/carers,

Nursery Curriculum Letter – Spring Term (2nd half)

The first half of the spring term has gone by in a flash! The children have worked so hard in all areas of learning and are growing into much more independent and 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 0-3. We hope that all of the nasty germs are now behind us and we can look forward to a very busy and exciting six weeks of learning!

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- Miss Kelly, Miss Jones, Mrs Stubbings, Mrs Breen

Tuesday cover teacher- Mrs Mehta

Wednesday morning PPA cover teacher- Mrs Harrison

Communication

You can email the nursery directly on acornclass@harefieldinfant.com Mrs Halligan will do her best to get back to you within a few working days.

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 Thursday. These can be changed on a Thursday 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.

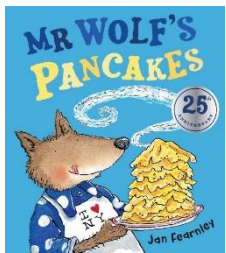
Communication and Language.

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

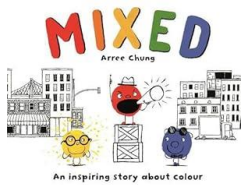
English runs hand in hand with Communication and Language, with all our work being carried out through the use of stories.

Our Key Text for this term are;



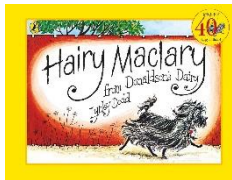
Mr Wolf's Pancakes is a fun story about a wolf who wants to make some pancakes but does not know how to so he goes to all of his neighbours to ask for some help. Unfortunately, nobody will help him and Mr Wolf has to make the pancakes all by himself. However, once his neighbours can smell the delicious pancakes they all come knocking at Mr Wolf's door asking if they can help him to eat them. What will Mr Wolf do? Will he share his pancakes with his unhelpful neighbours? What would you do?

This story will be taught alongside our Shrove Tuesday (pancake day) celebrations where we will be making and eating our own pancakes.



Mixed is a story about the primary colours. The reds, the blues and the yellows. They all live in separate parts of town and do not mix with one another because they are different. However, one day a yellow and a blue fall in love, much to the dismay of all of the other colours! They have a baby who is green and discover that by mixing they can create a whole new world.

This story will be taught alongside our 'Science Week' topic where children will be taking part in many fun experiments including colour mixing.



Hairy Maclary is a story about a group of dogs who take themselves for a walk and come face to face with Scar Face Claw, the toughest cat in town. This repetitive, rhyming story is fun for the children to join in with and runs alongside our 'Vets' topic this term.



This rhyming story about a rabbit who only talks in rhymes will consolidate the children's knowledge and understanding of rhyming words. It will be taught alongside our learning about Easter and spring.

World Book Day is on Thursday 6th 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 this 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 phases include;

Move and label 1,2,3- Children will build on their previous learning of numbers 1-3 by counting out objects and matching them to the numeral 1,2 or 3. They will also add actions to the number e.g. jumping 1 time or clapping their hands 3 times.

Explore position and routes- Children will use positional language such as on, over, under, through and between to describe the position of objects, their own bodies or when describing simple routes. The use of obstacle courses, jigsaw puzzles and shape patterns will consolidate the children's knowledge of this subject.

Explore own first patterns- Within the block, children will go on a pattern hunt and look for patterns in nature. These could include spirals on shells, petals on flowers, circles within circles on log slices, spots and stripes on insects or patterns when fruits are cut in half.

Take and give 1,2,3- The cardinal principle is introduced for the first time. This is the understanding that the last number said is the number of items there are in total. This includes counting a set and counting out from a larger group. Children often find this counting principle the most challenging. Support children to line up the objects they are counting, point to one item at a time and say one number name for each. Ensure that children count each item once and only once.

Match, talk, push and pull- In this block, children will be supported to match simple shapes using a variety of equipment. In the construction area, they will use blocks that are identical to one another and others that are different. This will support them to understand the language of 'same' and 'different'. As they push curved, flat and pointy blocks together, they will explore which blocks fit together the best.

Talk about dots- In this block, children will further develop their perceptual subitising skills of 1 to 3 and build on learning from previous subitising blocks. Perceptual subitising is the ability to recognise small quantities without counting. Children will be formally introduced to regular dot patterns for the first time, such as those found on dice and dominoes. Some children may have experience of these patterns if they play games involving dice and dominoes at home.

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 pets as we take care of the animals in our very own vets. We will look at the lifecycle of a chicken from egg, to chick, to chicken when the living eggs come to Reception. We will also 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.

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 as a vets to support our learning of animals. Later on it will transform into a science laboratory as we delve into science week. Our small world area will include a town, people from around the world, pets and vehicles for the children to create their own scenes and stories. Our construction area will see us building train tracks, animal enclosures, vehicles and buildings to support play using large and small construction as well as recycled materials. We will also explore 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