

Ash Spring 1 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome back to another exciting half term. We hope you all had a lovely and restful Christmas and New Year.

The children have come back to school full of excitement and enthusiasm and have enjoying diving into our new dinosaur topic this term!

We continue to ask Reception parents to say their goodbyes in the playground and not come into the school building when dropping the children off in the morning. This will continue to support the children in developing their independence and organisational skills.

Please continue to share any amazing news or achievements from home via Seesaw. The children develop their speaking and listening skills when they share with the rest of the class. During celebration assembly on a Friday, the children may bring any awards or achievements from clubs outside of school to share.

Within this newsletter, we will outline:

- A quick look at what we got up to last term
- The Reception curriculum for the half term
- The Nursery curriculum for the half term
- Key texts for this half term
- Key dates
- Reminders

If you have any questions or concerns, please see us either in the morning, afterschool or send an email to ash@astley.worcs.sch.uk

A quick look at last term











Reception Curriculum

This term is our big question is: *Did the dinosaurs live in Great Britain?*

Communication and Language – A key focus this term is for the children will articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. We will also be encouraging the children will ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them. Finally, our focus on storytelling will continue and enable the children to retell a known story. Once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, they will retell the story using some exact repetition and as well as their own words.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - We are continuing to learn how to manage our own needs throughout the school day . The children will be reminded of the names of different feelings and express their feelings and consider the feelings of others. During the last two weeks of term, we will be thinking about what a sensible amount of screen time is and why this is important for our health.

Physical Development – The children will develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently, including using knives to make a salad for a herbivore. Working both individually and as a group, we will continue to develop overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility, through our dance lessons and physical activities. Children will also know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and well-being.

Literacy – Our phonics lessons continue daily and the children are enjoying learning sounds and reading them within words. During our English lessons, we will be using our key texts to predict and share our thoughts and opinions. We will also be retelling stories orally and adding expression and intonation into our voices. Across the term, we will focus on confidently writing cvc words (e.g., hat) accurately as well as some ccvc and cvcc words (e.g., chip, bang) using our special friends.

Maths - We are learning about numbers 6, 7 and 8, including how these numbers are composed. We will also use the vocabulary *more than*, to compare amounts and end the term by using positional language to describe the location of objects as well as giving clear instructions to others.

RE - our question for the term is '*Which stories are special and why?*'. We will share, re-enact and then look for similarities and differences in the following stories:

- The Calming of the Storm - from the Bible
- David and Goliath - from the Bible
- The story of the first Revelation - from the Qur'an

Understanding the World - Through our dinosaur theme, the children will explore what a dinosaur actually is and use fossils to find out if they lived in Great Britain. Children will draw information from a simple map as well as create their own simple maps. The children will also be able to use an iPad to take effective and purposeful photographs.

Expressive Arts and Design - Our art skills will focus on collage this term and the children will learn how to use a range of materials to create an image. During our dance lessons children will watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses. They will listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses. We will end the term by performing as a group to other classes.

Nursery Curriculum

This term is our big question is: *Did the dinosaurs live in Great Britain?*

Communication and Language – We are continuing to learn and know and sing a large repertoire of songs. We will enjoy listening to longer stories and help explain what happens afterwards using the pictures to help us. The children will be encouraged to use longer sentences of four to six words to share their thoughts and ideas as well as understanding questions or instructions that have two parts.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - Throughout the term, we are continuing to extend and elaborate our play both individually and with others. The children will continue to talk about their feelings and name how they feel throughout the day and show more confidence in new social situations. At the end of the term, we will begin to think about what screen time is and how too much can make us unhealthy.

Physical Development – The children will continue to be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs. With support, they will use one-handed tools such as scissors and hammers, and develop a more comfortable grip when holding pens and pencils. During our dance lessons, the children will increasingly be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm. Finally, throughout the term, the children will match their developing skills to the activities they choose to do.

Literacy – The children will become increasingly more engaged in conversations about stories and using new vocabulary within their conversations. They will know that print can have different meanings and name the different parts of a book. Our main focus within the term will be to develop our phonological awareness of rhymes by singing nursery rhymes, using musical instruments to play rhythms and orally share rhyming words such as: hat, cat, mat, pat

Maths - We will be learning all about the numbers one and two what this means. Children will be able to pick these amounts from a larger quantity and know that it can be represented in different ways. The children will subitise* these amounts accurately. Through lots of practical activities the children will comment on the weight of objects using the vocabulary: heavier, heavy, light, lighter.

*Subitise - being able to know how many are there without counting e.g., knowing that there are two pencils just because you know what two looks like.

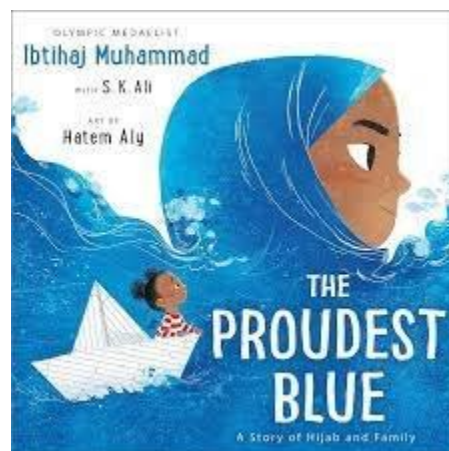
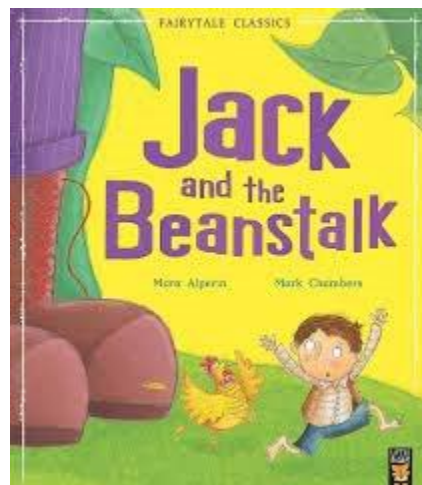
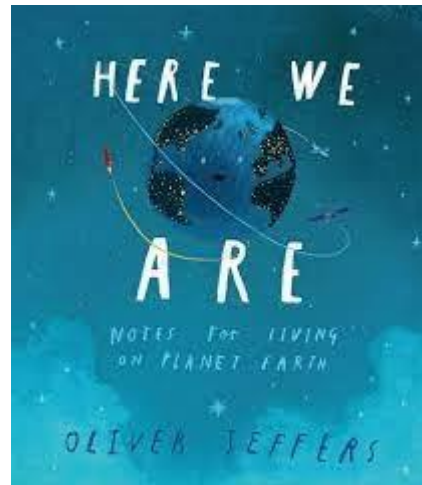
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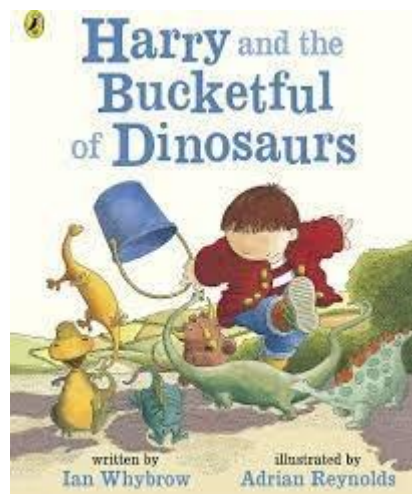
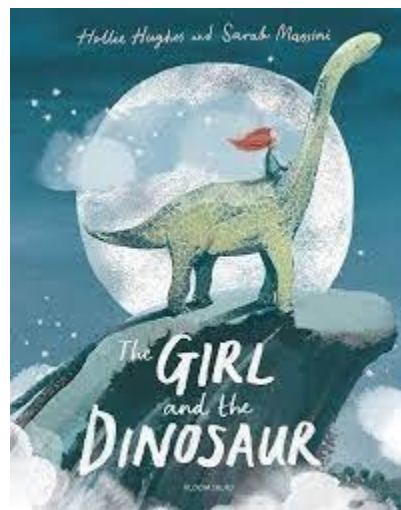
- The Calming of the Storm - from the Bible
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Understanding the World - Children will continue to use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials and talk about what they see, using a wide and growing vocabulary. They will talk about the difference between materials and notice the changes they see (ice, cooking, seasonal changes). During outdoor learning opportunities, the children will further understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.

Expressive Arts and Design - Through our dinosaur topic, we will be focusing on developing more complex stories using the small world resources. This will include creating our own narratives as well as beginning to build upon what others say. We will learn how to draw images using different types of shapes and lines, which will become increasingly complex and detailed. The children will also use a range of instruments with more control.

Key texts







Key Dates

Wednesday 7th February - Internet Safety Day

Thursday 8th February - Wear your scarf to school (part of Wellbeing Week)

Friday 9th February - Last day of term



Reminders

Please ensure all Reception children have returned their outdoor shoes.

On Forest School days, children should come to school **wearing their school shoes and Forest School shoes in a separate bag.**

Please ensure all belongings are named, including hats and gloves. This makes returning items much easier and successful.

