



Ash Spring 1 Newsletter 2025

Welcome

Happy new year to you all! We have had a tremendous start to the term and it has been lovely to hear what the children got up to over the Christmas break. Reception have stepped up to the challenge of coming into the school building independently - thank you for your support with this.

We will continue to use Seesaw to share what the children have been up to in school, send reminders or notices and for the Reception children, to send home links to phonics videos to support their learning. Please continue to share images of what the children have been up to at home - they love to share these with the class and developing their oracy skills at the same time.

Within this newsletter, we will outline:

- the Reception curriculum
- the Nursery curriculum
- key texts for this term
- Forest School and PE
- key dates
- reminders

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

Miss Creig and Mrs Roberts





Reception Curriculum

This term our big question is: *Why are inventions important?*

Communication and Language – this term we are focusing on ensure that we use well articulated sentences to share our thoughts and ideas. Reception will also be expected to retell a story using their own words and ask questions to find out more.

PSED - our big focus this term is managing our own needs as well as understanding how they are feeling as well as considering the feelings of others.

Physical Development – the children will continue to develop overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility. We will be developing our fine motor skills further by using scissor, hammers and knives during cooking activities.

Literacy – our daily phonics lessons continue and the children will recap the sounds already taught as well as all of the special friends (digraphs - sounds with 2 letters sh, th, ch, qu, ng, nk, ck). We are using these sounds more consistently to write cvc, cvcc and ccvc words (e.g. cvc - cat, cvcc - wish, ccvc - shop). The first two weeks we will be using The Snowman for our stimulus and the last four weeks, The Gingerbread Man. The children will be able to retell these story in their own words.

Maths - we will explore numbers 6, 7 and 8 this term ensuring we know the different ways they can be represented as well as how they can be composed. Towards the end of the term, we will begin to think about addition and subtraction within 5 and finding ways that we can record this.

RE - our question for the term is 'Which stories are special and why?' The children will learn several stories from the Bible, acting them out and retelling them with confidence.

Understanding the World - the children will develop an understand of what an inventor is and will explore 3 different inventions. We will build on this to create our own inventions. We will also learn how to add sound to an image when using the iPad.

Expressive Arts and Design - our main focus this term is how to join different materials to help us create our inventions. We will learn to use a hole punch, tabs, glue, hammer and nails. The children will also express themselves to music during our weekly dance lessons.



Nursery Curriculum

This term our big question is: *Why are inventions important?*

Communication and Language – this term we will enjoy listening to longer stories and remember much of what happens. We will also focus on following instructions or questions with two parts.

PSED - we will continue to talk about our feelings using words such as 'happy', 'sad' etc and begin to recognise these feelings within others.

Physical Development – our focus this term is to encourage the children to hold a pen or pencil with a grip that is comfortable to them. We will continue to climb, jump, swing and wave ribbons to develop the strength in our whole body.

Literacy – this term our focus is rhymes and rhythms. We will read stories such as 'Oi Frog' and 'Hairy Maclary' to hear rhymes as they are read. The first two weeks of term will focus on The Snowman and the rest of the term, The Gingerbread Man.

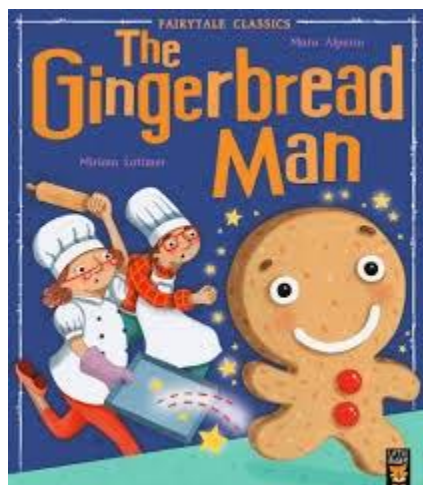
Maths - we are beginning the term looking at number 1 and how this is represented. We will then move onto weight, using vocabulary such as *heavy*, *heaviest*, *light*, *lighter*. At the end of term, we will focus on the number 2.

Understanding the World - the children will explore lots of different materials and use their senses to describe what they experience and comment on the changes they notice. We will also develop our understanding about how to care for the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design - we are going to focusing on how to draw with a closed line and make our drawings more complex. We will also be playing different musical instruments, learning how to make different sounds and rhythms.



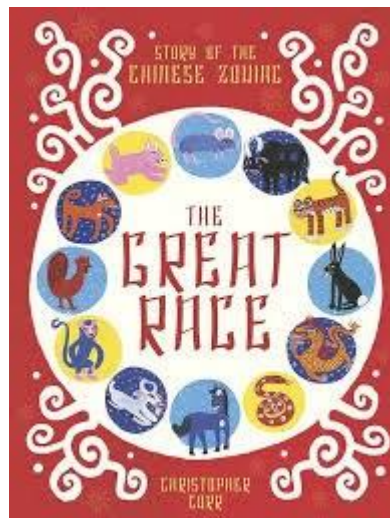
Key texts

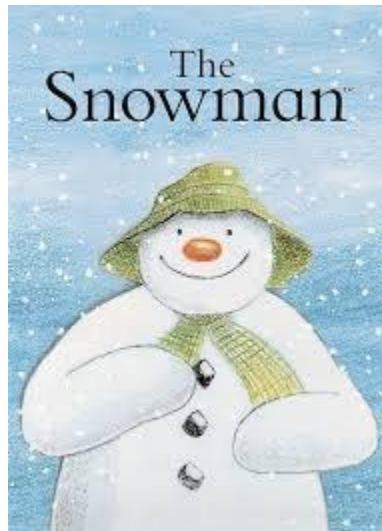
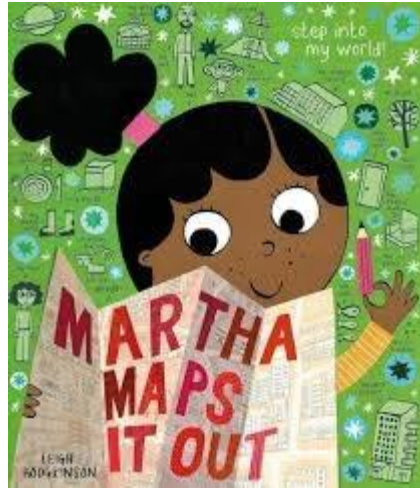




We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury





Forest School, Outdoor Learning and PE

Forest School

Nursery will use the Forest School site on a Tuesday.

Reception will have a Forest School session every Wednesday with Mrs Griffiths.

Children should come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes - long trousers, long sleeved top and other clothing for the weather (hats, gloves etc.) Please ensure everything is named.

Outdoor Learning

Friday is our outdoor learning day, where we spend the majority of the day outside either on the school site or in the local area.

All children should come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes.

We monitor the weather and move inside as needed but please ensure hats and gloves are in school and named.

PE

PE for Reception children is timetabled for a Tuesday and Thursday, but may change due to clashes with events being held within school. All PE kits are in school and will be sent home at the end of the half term, unless they need a wash beforehand.

Nursery have a timetabled hall session on a Wednesday to allow them to develop their gross motor skills. They will only take off their shoes and socks.



Key Dates

Week of the 10th February - Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing week

Friday 14th February - Change the rules day

Tuesday 25th February - Reception visit to the Sea Life Centre

Thursday 3rd April- Reception to Year 6 Dance Festival at The Chantry



Reminders

Please **read each night** with your child. If you can make a note in their reading record this helps us know if the children need to change their books.

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.

