



We are Explorers!



Spring 2
2024/2025

Key Texts

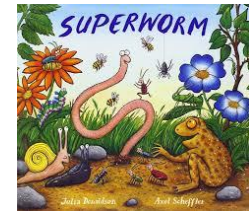
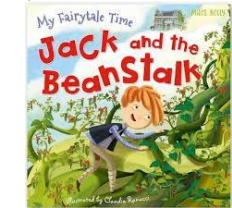
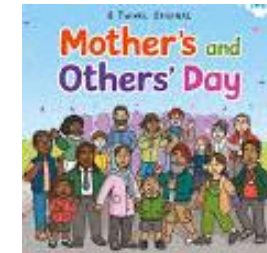
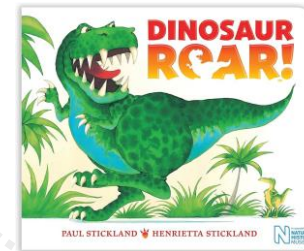
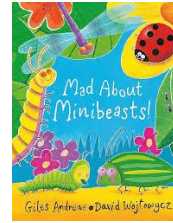
This half term in Nursery, our exciting Topic is 'We are Explorers!' We'll kick things off with the classic tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This will lead us into hands-on planting as we grow our very own beanstalks and discover what plants need to flourish. Additionally, we'll delve into the fascinating worlds of dinosaurs, mini-beasts, and lifecycles. Through these activities, the children will gain a deeper understanding of nature, develop their curiosity, and enhance their observational skills. We can't wait for all the fun and learning that lies ahead!



We will be learning lots information about the different topics we explore. We will spend two weeks learning all about Dinosaurs as there's so much to know! We learn lots of different facts about dinosaurs including what it means to be a herbivore and a carnivore!

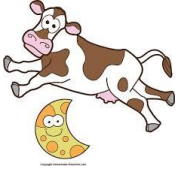


To support our learning of these different topics we will be reading a range of key texts that link closely to our theme 'We are Explorers!'



- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Dinosaur Roar!
- Mad About Dinosaurs!
- Superworm
- Mad About Minibeasts!
- Mothers & Others Day!
- The Easter Story
- The Rhyming Rabbit!





Rhyme of the Day

"Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight." - Mem Fox, Reading Magic.

In Nursery we have a Nursery Rhyme of the day which we all sing together during the session. This Nursery Rhyme is changed each half term and encourages the children to develop their listening skills as well as increasing their awareness of rhyme.

Many of our rhymes include numbers too which support children to embed their early Mathematical knowledge even further.

Our Nursery Rhymes this half term are:

Monday - 1 2 3 4 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

Tuesday - Hickory Dickory Dock

Wednesday - A Sailor Went to Sea

Thursday - Ba Ba Black Sheep

Friday - Humpty Dumpty



Please encourage your child to sing these with you at home as well as watch the familiar rhyme videos on the link.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnameNurseryRhymesVideos>



Special Events

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Throughout this half term, there are several celebrations that occur. We will be learning about the importance of these events, and why we celebrate these. We will be celebrating World Book Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter.



STEM Week

STEM Week will be taking place during the week of 24th March.

Throughout STEM week, Nursery will be completing a range of interactive activities linking to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.





Foundation for Phonics

Little Wandle Phonics Scheme

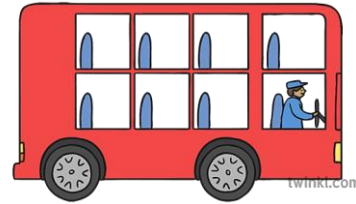
At Aragon, we use the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme across the school. Little Wandle have created a 'Foundations for Phonics' which contributes to children's communication, language and literacy skills in Nursery.

In Nursery, one of the most important aspects we focus on is developing an awareness of sound. We aim to provide activities and group sessions that focus on listening and attention skills in order to support children's development in Nursery.

Throughout our Phonics sessions, we will be practising tuning into sounds by focussing on the initial sounds of words as well as oral blending to develop our awareness of sounds and early reading.

One game the children love to play is 'Bertha the Bus'. Here is how to play it at home!

Bertha the Bus



How to play Bertha the Bus at home:

All together chant this rhyme:
*Bertha the Bus is going to the zoo,
Who does she see as she passes through?
She sees a...*

Pull out one animal from the box. This animal should start with the same sound as the one you have been focussing on for the week.

For example: Our sound of the week is /s/

Bertha might see a:

- Snake
- Spider
- Starfish
- Snail

Repeat the chant as you go through the different animals in the box. Emphasise to children that each animal begins with the same sound. Our sound is...



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication & Language

Throughout this half term we will continue to enhance and strengthen our areas further in Nursery to support children's listening and speaking skills. We will do this through our small world, playdough and role play areas both inside and outside, as well as through importantly modelling key language to the children.

This Topic enable children to use their own imagination and thoughts. Children will be able to contribute their own ideas during carpet sessions! The Nursery environment will focus on enhancing their communication skills further with links to the key learning.

Throughout the children's time at Nursery, we ensure daily that high quality texts are read and the children participate in rhyme time sessions. This enables children to hear enriched language through the use of picture books and songs.



We will be encouraging children to develop their independence with toileting, washing hands, and putting on/taking off their coats. Children will be encouraged to develop their sharing and turn taking with their peers when playing. We will continue to do our daily emotional check ins and discussing the reasons we might be feeling a certain way.

During this half term, we will be having lots of new friends join us in Nursery! We are very excited to get to know them and welcome them to our Nursery as well as teaching them all the key rules and routines we follow in Nursery. Our Topic this half term allows us to understand how important it is to look after ourselves and the world around us and how we can successfully do this.

Physical Development

We are always busy in Nursery developing both our gross motor and fine motor skills.

We will be using all of our PE equipment outside to set up a range of physical activities for the children to explore. These include balancing, throwing and jumping.

We have our 'funky fingers' station in Nursery which is set up with activities that will support the children's development of their fine motor skills. These activities include threading, using tweezers and lots more!





Literacy



We will continue to follow our Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics scheme to support the children's phonological awareness ready for their transition up to Reception where they will be begin their formal Phonics learning. Here, we will be playing varying games to consolidate our learning and further practise our awareness of initial sounds and oral blending.

All children will be supported to become confident in their pencil control. They will continue to have access to mark making tools inside the Nursery and outside on a larger scale. We will also be encouraging the children to practise writing their name everyday at Nursery!

WORLD BOOK DAY

Understanding the World



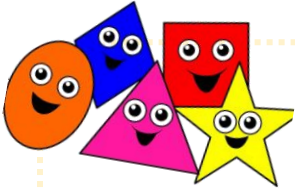
We will be celebrating Easter and learning all about the significance of this. In March, World Book Day is celebrated across the country to promote the love of reading in schools. We will be taking part in this with different planned activities all based around some of our favourite books!
We will be planting our very own beanstalks just like in the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will learning all about the lifecycle of a plant and what we need to do to care for the plants to grow.



Expressive Arts and Design

During our learning of Jack and the Beanstalk we will be using our hands to mix blue and yellow paint together to make the colour green which we will then hand print onto our very own beanstalks. With a continued focus on communication, we will continue to have regularly updated role play and small world areas for the children to explore and develop their imaginary play skills. The children will be encouraged to take on different roles and develop a storyline within their play.

We will be continuing with our daily rhyme time and familiar songs that are embedded within our routines at Nursery.



Maths

We will have a focussed Maths Carpet Session twice a week where we will be focussing on exploring and comparing size, length and capacity as well as sequencing events using key vocabulary. We will continue to have our daily Maths meeting where we look at the days of the week, date, month, weather and season!

Throughout STEM week we will be learning all about Maths within different environments.

