

Ash Spring 2 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome back to another short but exciting half term.

The children have come back to school full of excitement and enthusiasm and have begun to be thoughtful in considering how others have been treated in the past.

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
- World Book Day - 7th March
- 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







Reception Curriculum

This term is our big question is: *Who was Rosa Parks?*

Communication and Language – A key focus this term is for the children to use a range of connectives to join their ideas and thoughts. We will encourage the children to use *because*, *but* and *however* when they are sharing their learning, especially building on our theatre visit. Last term, we began to find a joy in non-fiction texts and gaining information from them. We will continue sharing and learning from non-fiction texts and finding even more interesting facts! At the end of each day, we will continue with a carpet session to continue developing our listening and attention skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - We are continuing to learn how to manage our own needs throughout the school day as well as our educational visit to the Swan Theatre . The children will be reminded of the names of different feelings and express their feelings and consider the feelings of others. We are also providing challenges for the children to take part in, which will develop their perseverance and resilience and confidence to not give up when something becomes difficult.

Physical Development – As well as our continued daily fine motor focus, our main focus this term is in developing the children's throwing, catching, kicking, batting and passing skills. During our provision time, a variety of balls and throwing equipment will be available for the children to explore and create their own games with their peers. Our skills PE lesson this term will be gymnastics, where we will learn to hold different shapes, jumps and rolls. These will be both on the floor and on apparatus.

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. We will continue to focus on confidently on reading and writing cvc words (e.g., hat) accurately as well as some ccvc and cvcc words (e.g., chip, bang) using our special friends. This term, we

will introduce Drawing Club. During this time, we will share new vocabulary from a stimulus and then model a drawing of either a character, setting or adventure. The children will be challenged to add a code, which includes both words and numerals.

Maths - We are learning about numbers 9 and 10, including how these numbers are composed. We will also spend time looking back at our number bonds to 5 and begin to think about the subtraction facts relating to these. We expect all children to know their number bonds to 5 by the end of the year. We will end the term by measuring the length and height of objects and making comparisons.

RE - Our question for the term is 'Why is Easter important to Christians?'. We will become familiar with the Easter story, with a focus on the story of Palm Sunday. We will also begin to understand why Easter is a happy festival and the meaning of different symbols. We will also take part in the whole school Experience Easter event.

Understanding the World - Through our key text, we will be finding out about Rosa Parks and understand what she did to be still known today. We will think about how she was treated and whether this was right or wrong and why we should stand up for our beliefs, building on the work we have already completed about Marcus Rashford. During the last two weeks of the term, we will be thinking about how materials change and what we think is making the change. We will also begin to plant seeds ready for the summer term.

Expressive Arts and Design - Our art skills will focus on printing this term and the children will learn how to print to create an image, looking at the work of Andy Warhol. Reception children will take their first steps in sewing to decorate a piece of fabric.

Nursery Curriculum

This term is our big question is: *How have toys changed?*

Communication and Language – We are continuing to support the children in using talk to organise their play, especially when playing with others. We will also develop the children's understanding of simple questions about 'who', 'what' and 'where'. Throughout the term, new vocabulary will be shared and the children encouraged to use it when sharing their own ideas and thoughts.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - Throughout the term, 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. We are increasingly supporting the older Nursery children in finding their own solutions to conflicts and solving the challenges they faces with perseverance.

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. Our main focus this term is in developing the children's throwing, catching, kicking, batting and passing skills. During our provision time, a variety of balls and throwing equipment will be available for the children to explore and create their own games with their peers.

Literacy – The children will become increasingly more engaged in conversations about stories and using new vocabulary within their conversations. Our main focus within the term will be to develop our phonological awareness of initial sounds (alliterations) and syllables. This term, we will introduce Drawing Club. During this time, we will share new vocabulary from a stimulus and then model a drawing of either a character, setting or adventure. The children will be challenged to add a code and give their marks meaning.

Maths - We will be learning all about the numbers three and four 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 length of objects using the vocabulary: long, longer, tall, tallest, short and shorter.

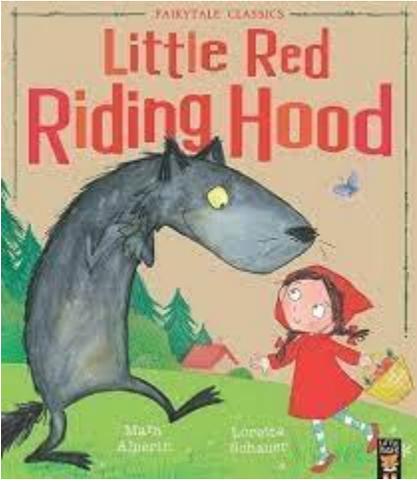
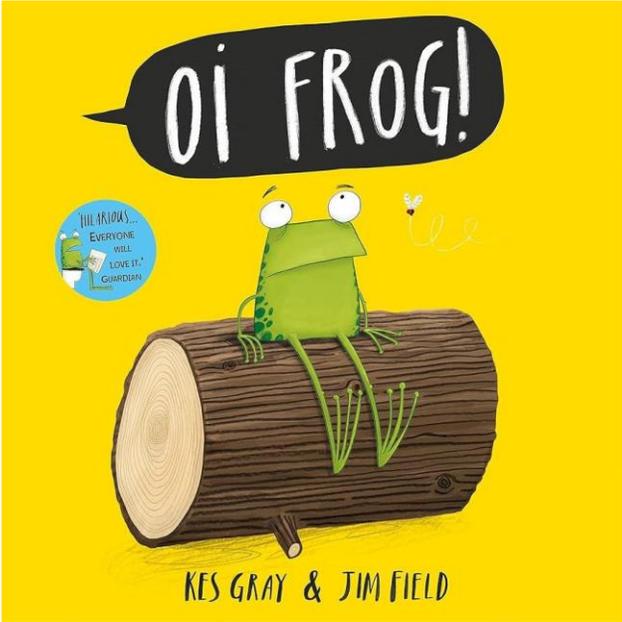
*Subitise - being able to know how many are there without counting e.g., knowing that there are two pencils just because you know what two looks like.

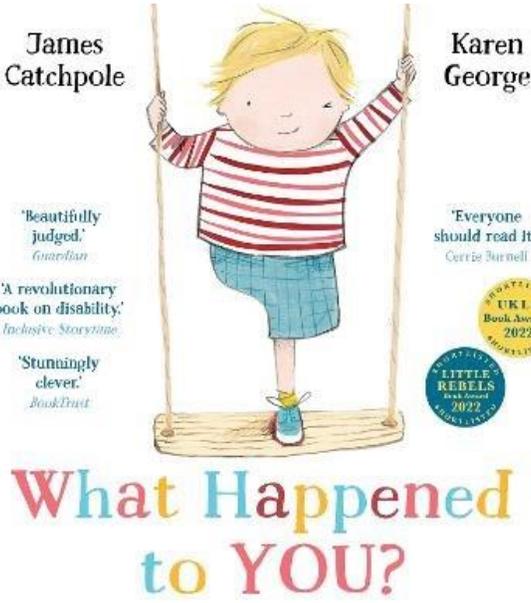
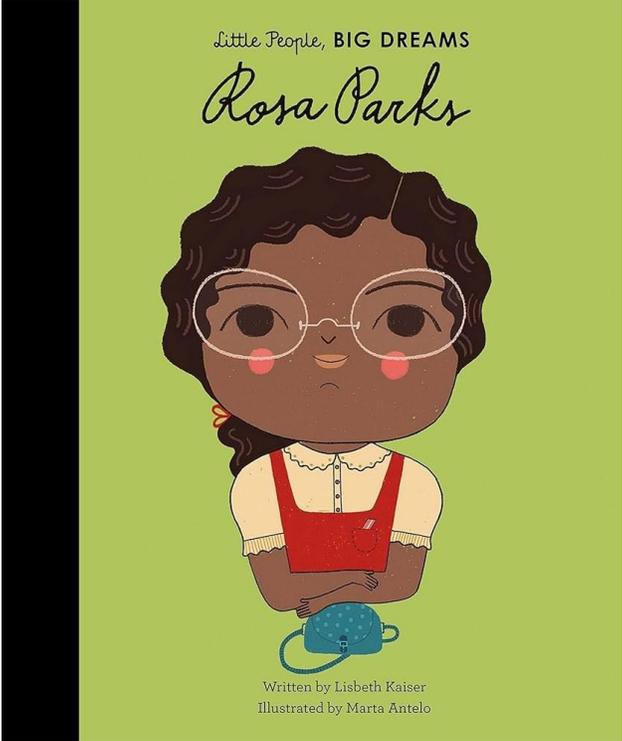
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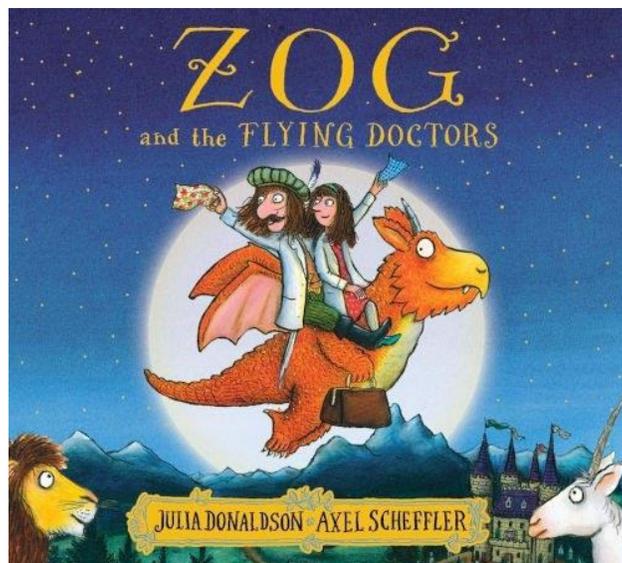
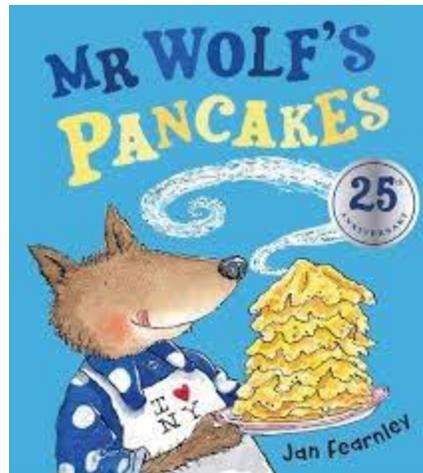
Understanding the World - Children will continue to use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials and talk about what they see, using a wide and growing vocabulary. They will talk about the difference between materials and notice the changes they see (ice, cooking, seasonal changes). We will also explore how toys have changed over time. We will play and hold old toys to help us look more closely at them and think about what they are made from, how they were used and why our toys are not like this anymore.

Expressive Arts and Design - We are going to develop our drawing skills this term through Drawing Club. During this time, an adult will model a picture (based on different stimulus), and then give the children time to draw their own creations. The children will also learn how to weave and print with different materials.

Key texts







World Book Day - 7th March

We're looking forward to seeing how creative the children have been in creating their story hats when they wear them to school on the 7th March.

Story Hats

Please spend some time discussing your chosen story, thinking about the setting, characters and plot.

Can the children repeat and join in repeated phases or can they retell the story from memory?

We love seeing the children's art work and creations. The Reception children may even amaze you with their writing skills too!

Parents Reading

Parents/family members are welcome into school at 9am to read with their children. The children will be in their teams, to allow siblings to read together.

Book Creating

Throughout the day, each class will create a different type of book and create their own story to share with others.

Book Vouchers

Don't forget to spend your book voucher to receive your free book or £1 off another new book!



Key Dates

Friday 23rd February - Reception Hearing Re-Tests

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - please see the details above

Thursday 7th March - Reception Eye Tests

Thursday 14th March - Parent Consultations

Tuesday 19th March - Parent Consultations

Wednesday 20th March - Reception Swan Theatre Visit - NO FOREST SCHOOL - Children to wear school uniform

Friday 22nd March - Last day of term / Change the Rules Day

Wednesday 1st May - Reception Tiny Olympics (details to follow)

Monday 17th June - Reception Worcester Cathedral visit

Friday 5th July - EY's Music Festival (for all children in school on this day)



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.

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.

