



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Stories for Talking & Environmental Text

This half term, our learning continues to be built around our **Stories for Talking and Environmental Text**.

Environmental text is a story that lives within our provision. Children revisit the narrative in play, building understanding of characters, sequencing and vocabulary. Our Environmental Text this half term is **Chicken Licken**

Stories for Talking supports children to:

- Retell familiar stories
- Develop narrative language
- Use new vocabulary in play
- Build confidence as communicators.

Our Stories this term are –

For our Explorers (2-3 year olds) – Oh Dear! By Rod Campbell

For our Investigators (3-4 year olds) – Hattie and the Fox, by Mem Fox.

See attached for more information.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

We will be celebrating **World Book Day** on **Thursday 5th March**.

There is **absolutely no expectation to buy a costume for this day**. Children are very welcome to:

- Come in their **pyjamas**
- Bring their **favourite book** from home
- Share a story with their friends

The focus of the day will be on celebrating our love of books, storytelling and imagination.

Our Curriculum Pillars – A Reminder

- Independence
- Book Lovers
- Curious Learners
- Excellent Communicators
- Risk Takers
- Kind & Respectful Friends

We also emphasise **early maths** — counting, comparison, pattern, shape and spatial awareness.

Hoot's Golden Rules:

Kind Hands. Safe Feet. Listening Ears. Brave Hearts.

Our New Song This Term

See attached – please help your child to learn this at home, too.

Learning new songs helps to develop children's language, listening and memory skills. Repetition builds confidence and supports clear speech, rhythm and early phonological awareness (which helps with reading later on)

Save the Dates – Parent Events

Easter Stay & Play – Friday 27th March 10:30–11:45

Growing & Planting Stay & Play – Monday 18th May 10:30–11:45

School Leavers Ceremony – Friday 10th July 2:00pm

More details will follow closer to the time.

How our Home Corner Supports Learning

Our Home Corner is much more than a role play space, it is an area for developing communication, imagination and independence.

Through everyday play (cooking, caring for babies, setting the table, making tea), children practise real-life language, storytelling and social skills. They negotiate roles, solve problems and explore feelings in a safe and familiar context. This links directly to our curriculum pillars:

Excellent Communicators – Children use new vocabulary, retell experiences and engage in meaningful conversations with their friends.

Book Lovers – Children act out stories and recreate familiar narratives through imaginative play.

Curious Learners – They explore “what happens if...?”, experiment with resources and make connections to real life.

Kind & Respectful Friends – Taking turns, caring for babies and sharing roles builds empathy and cooperation.

Independence – Children make choices, organise resources and take responsibility for their play.

Maths – Counting plates to share between friends, comparing sizes, talking about full and empty.

Risk Takers – Children take social risks – negotiating roles, trying new language and leading play with confidence.

The Home Corner may look simple, but it is rich in language, problem-solving and social development every single day.



A Look Inside a Healthy Lunchbox

A balanced lunchbox might include:

- Fresh fruit
- Vegetables
- A sandwich, wrap or roll
- A dairy item
- A small savoury snack

A colourful mix helps support children's energy and concentration throughout the day.



Important Dates

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March – wear something funny

End of Term – Friday 27th March

End of Term – Friday 22nd May

Summer Term Ends – Friday 17th July

Return – Monday 13th April

Return – Monday 1st June