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From The Headteacher & Manager

What an incredible start we have had to the new year, and to our Spring term. We have learned, enjoyed, and experienced so much together during this first half term. This term, we were delighted to welcome back Miss Sophie for our performing arts sessions, which take place every other Tuesday. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their 30-minute sessions, taking part in acting, ballet, story creation, and dance.

We are very much looking forward to continuing these sessions next half term and seeing the children build on the skills and confidence they have already gained.



We would like to say a huge congratulations to all of our pupils who took part in their 3+ and 4+ assessments and have been offered school places. We are immensely proud of you all and of everything you have achieved. It is a privilege to watch the children grow into the bright, confident individuals they are becoming, and we are very grateful to be a part of your children's learning journey during their early years.

We have also received some very kind messages and words of thanks from you, which have been lovely to read and to share with The Hall team. Thank you all so much for your kind words and continued support.

If you are joining us for Holiday Club next week, we are very much looking forward to welcoming you next week and continuing the fun together. Our topic for the week is 'Amazing Art', where we will be exploring a wide range of different art, and artists, creating our very own masterpieces.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 23rd February, when we begin our second part of our Spring term. We have an exciting term ahead, packed with some of our favourite topics to explore, special events, enriching activities, and plenty more opportunities and experiences for the children to learn, grow, and shine. Thank you all once again for your continued support we cannot wait to see what the next term brings!

Best wishes, Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Erb



Buttercup Class:

What a fantastic half term it has been in Buttercup Class! The children have had a truly lovely time, filled with excitement, exploration, and lots of smiles. They have taken part in a wide range of fun and engaging activities.

Our astronaut training was a big hit, with the children exploring space through imaginative play, movement, and sensory activities. They also thoroughly enjoyed baby ballet, where they developed their coordination and confidence through gentle music and movement.

Creativity was in full swing as the children decorated space-themed biscuits, carefully spreading icing, adding sprinkles, and of course tasting their creations! We also explored new flavours during our food-tasting activities, encouraging the children to try a variety of foods.

It has been a joy to see the children growing in confidence, curiosity, and independence throughout the half term. We are very proud of them and look forward to welcoming them back next term. Well done, Buttercups!



Bluebell Class:

A wonderful start to the new year here in bluebell room, taking part in some fantastic topics such as my bodies, space and help the planet! The children are now beginning to take their time and really enjoy engaging in each activity, with clear focus and determination.

We started our jolly phonics journey this term, beginning with the first set of sounds! We are very impressed with how well the children are retaining each sound, ensuring we incorporate new key words each day for muscle memory.

Each day we add yoga into our morning routine, which supports gross motor skills and enables the children to follow instruction and practice routine. There are different themed yoga sessions on 'cosmic kids' that you can choose from and practice at home with your children.

Our classroom has been adapted, utilising key areas that the children gravitate towards during free play, to make the most out of their learning opportunities. We have noticed a vast improvement during our space topic in relation to the children's communication and personal, social and emotional development. The children are now initiating play with one another, turn taking as well as helping one another build confidence, which has been fantastic to see.

We cannot wait to begin some exciting new topics after the half term as we venture into spring.



Daisy Class:

We have had a brilliant start to the new year term, with the children settling in beautifully and showing great enthusiasm for their learning. The classroom has been full of excitement, curiosity, laughter and lots of smiles!

The children have grown an interest towards our space topic! They have loved exploring planets, stars, rockets, astronauts and spaceships, which has contributed towards their imaginative play!

Our favourite story so far this term has been 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', which the children have enjoyed reading again and again. It has inspired discussions, encouraged their speech and language and lots of role play.

During Bodies Week, the children had lots of fun learning about how their bodies work. A highlight for everyone was singing and moving along to the Funny Bones song, which quickly became a class favourite. The children loved singing this song during their everyday play, specifically doctor's role play!

We are extremely proud of how much the Daisy room children have progressed in their development! It has been lovely to see how engaged and excited the children are about their learning, and we are really looking forward to another fun-filled half term ahead!



Poppy Class:

We have had an incredible start to the year in the Poppy Room, with so many exciting learning experiences taking place each day. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about outer space and created some fantastic artwork linked to the topic, including name rockets, rocket puppets, and even designing and creating their very own planets.

The children loved taking part in space-themed games, developing their teamwork skills with their peers, and most importantly, having lots of fun while learning and thriving together.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have really enjoyed our *Help the Planet* topic. The children worked collaboratively on class projects using only recycled materials, learning how they can help care for our planet and protect the animals that live on it. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing understanding of how small actions can make a big difference.

Every day, the children's confidence continues to grow, their learning is soaring, and they are having so much fun singing, dancing, and expressing themselves creatively. We are very proud of all they have achieved so far and look forward to many more exciting learning adventures ahead.



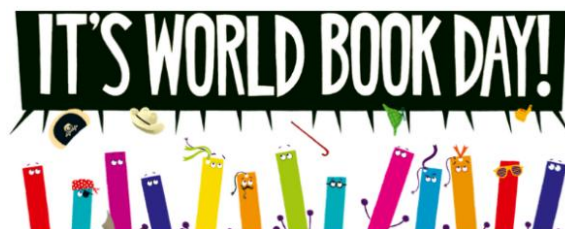


Forthcoming Topics

Minibeasts and lifecycles (two weeks)
Three little pigs
Spring and farm life
Easter fun!

World Book Day 5th March

On **Thursday 5th March** we will be celebrating World Book Day. The children are invited to come to school on this day dressed as a character from a book, if they wish. Costumes are readily available from supermarkets and online, but please do not feel obliged to go out and spend money on a fancy costume - it is perfectly fine to be creative and use items that you already have at home.



The Book Trust

The Book Trust provides monthly reading tips, and more to keep the whole family reading together!
Visit <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/families> to check them out.

Easter Fun

On the last day of term, **Friday 27th March 10 – 11.30am** we will have a Peter Rabbit Easter Egg Hunt and Easter party for the children. If your child does not normally attend on a Friday, you may send them in from 10 – 11.30am, just let Miss Erb know, so we know who to expect.



Zoolab Visit - Advance Notice

On **Thursday 6th May**, we have booked a visit from Zoolab to link with our topic on minibeasts. We are very much looking forward to this. If your child does not normally attend on a Thursday you may bring them in just for this event. Speak to Miss Erb nearer the time for timings.

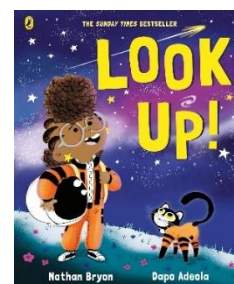


Our Favourite Books this half term...

Title: Look Up!

Author: Nathan Byron

Meet hilarious, science-mad chatterbox, Rocket - she's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived! But... can she convince her big brother to stop looking down at his phone and start **LOOKING UP** at the stars? Bursting with energy and passion about science and space, this heart-warming, inspirational picture book will have readers turning off their screens and switching on to the outside world.



Title: Somebody swallowed Stanley..

Author: Sarah Roberts

Everybody has a taste for Stanley - and the other ocean creatures just *keep* mistaking him for a delicious treat - but this is no ordinary jellyfish.

Most jellyfish have dangly-gangly tentacles, but Stanley has two handles...

Other jellyfish have a magical glow, but Stanley has stripes...

Because Stanley (**spoiler alert**) is a plastic bag!

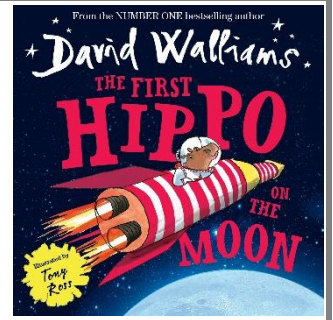


Title: First hippo on the moon!

Author: David Walliams

Two big hippos. One ENORMOUS dream. Who can make it to the moon first?

3 ... 2 ... 1 ... BLAST OFF!



Title: Betsy Buglove, saves the bees!

Author: Catherine Jacob

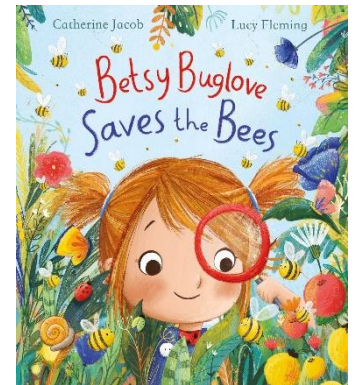
Meet Betsy Buglove in this magical picture book - a girl who LOVES bugs more than anything else in the world!

In a big, bustling town lived a girl who loved bugs,
from earthworms to ladybirds, woodlice and slugs.

While spiders or ants might make some scream in fright
to her, creepy crawlies were such a delight!

If there's anything to know about Betsy Buglove, it's that, when she's around, no
bug ever has to worry about getting in trouble. Betsy's not afraid
of sticky goo, tangled webs, or even muddy boots, no!

On her sixth birthday she receives a special gift - a magic magnifying glass that allows
her to speak to her fuzzy, sometimes slimy, friends. So get ready, because Betsy's
about to get some serious business done.



Title: Please help planet Earth!

Author: A ladybird book.

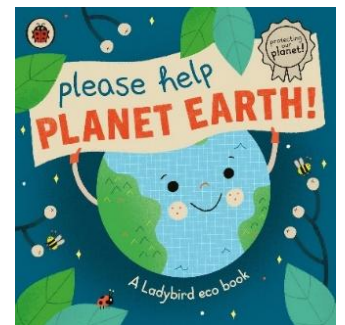
I am planet Earth.

I am home to humans, plants and animals.

I give them food to eat, water to drink and air to breathe.

But I need YOUR help.

Please Help Planet Earth is the perfect introduction for toddlers to help them
understand and engage with the issue of climate change.



Families Magazines

You can download the latest Families Magazine by clicking here...

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families_nw_london_jan_feb_2026_issue?fr=sZTg2ZTg5ODk0MjA



Funding Codes

If you are claiming Government Funding, a reminder that your code needs updating every 3 months. If it is a while since you obtained your code, please log in to your account and check whether it needs updating.

Please go to this website... <https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/confirm-details-up-to-date>

All codes have to be obtained or updated by

31st August for Autumn Term Funding

31st December for Spring Term Funding

31st March for Summer Term Funding.

It is the parent's responsibility to get all the relevant codes and information to the Nursery in time, so that money can be claimed. If you do not submit this information, the Nursery cannot offer the funding and you will be liable for the full fees.

Potty Training:

We have had several enquiries recently regarding potty training and advice to support your child's toileting journey. Below, we have shared some helpful information from BBC CBeebies Parenting, taken from the article "*Potty Training: Support Parents Can Trust*".

These points may be useful if you are thinking about starting potty training soon, or later on during your child's early years. For more information, please feel free to view the article online if you wish. This information will also be emailed to you, where you will be able to click the link directly.

When should I start potty training my child?

It's important to remember all children are different and the age at which they are capable of mastering potty skills is unique to them. However, most potty training skills can be learned before you stop using nappies, which can be one of the last steps in the process.

Thinking about it this way means that you don't need to wait until your child is 'ready' and able to do everything on their own before they can start learning toileting skills. You also don't need to wait until they tell you they no longer want to wear nappies (you could be waiting quite some time!).

Helping your child learn as they go along, according to what they are capable of at each stage of development, gives them a gentle learning process towards stopping using nappies. It can help to think of it being a skill like learning to walk or talk – the more practice and help your child gets the easier it will be.

Here are some tips to help you start:

- Research shows it is better for your child's bladder and bowel health to potty train earlier, with the best time to stop using nappies being between 18-30 months. Most children will be able to take the lead in many parts of the potty-training process from around 18 months old and will be doing most things by themselves when they start school
- By starting the learning process before 18 months, it means that when you decide to stop using nappies or pull-ups, your child will already have some skills they need to make the move to pants and potty easier for them and less stressful for you both.
- You can introduce the potty as soon as children can safely sit up on their own. Good times to try sitting on the potty include shortly after they wake up, after mealtimes, and any time it looks like your child needs to wee or poo. You can use nappies most of the time but then take them off to use a potty when the child is likely to go
- As your child grows, you can help them to learn words or signs for the potty, how to push their pants down and pull them up again, using toilet paper, handwashing and hand drying
- There may be times when it is more difficult for you to help your child use a potty, for example if they are unwell or if they refuse to cooperate. At these times, it's important not to put pressure on yourself or your child and only do what feels manageable for you both

How do I start potty training my child?

Stopping wearing nappies and learning how to use the potty independently is a big milestone for your child. There are lots of new skills for them to learn with your help.

Spending time preparing your child in advance of taking their nappy away is the best way to help them move on to the next step. Just like when they learn to talk, walk and feed themselves, the best way to help your child get the hang of potty training is to give them lots of practice, support and encouragement. You are the best teacher they can learn from!

Here are some tips to help get your child ready for potty training:

- Try to change nappies or pull-ups as soon as they are wet or soiled. This teaches your child that it is normal to be clean and dry
- Once your child can stand, do nappy or pull-up changes standing up and involve them in cleaning up and flushing poo down the toilet. This will teach your child where wee and poo goes
- Leave your child's nappy or pull-up off for up to 30 minutes after your child has had a wee or poo. This will help them get used to not wearing it without having an accident
- Having regular, short periods without wearing a nappy or pull-up can help prepare your child for how it will feel when they stop using them completely
- If you use disposable nappies or pull-ups, you can add a washable, reusable cloth flannel into it so that it feels wet when your child wees. This is because disposables instantly wick away the moisture, making it harder for your child to feel when they have done a wee. Make sure to remove the cloth as soon as it gets wet to avoid nappy rash

Coping With Toddler Tantrums - NSPCC Guidance

Toddler tantrums are a completely normal part of growing up. As little ones move from babyhood to toddlerhood, they're still learning how to communicate their needs — which can lead to tears, shouting, kicking or hitting when things feel overwhelming.

What tantrums really mean

Tantrums are a form of communication. Your child may be telling you they:

- feel overwhelmed
- can't manage something
- don't understand what's happening

Although tantrums can be stressful (especially in public!), they are a normal part of development. Toddlers are still learning self-control and need lots of repetition before expectations sink in.

How to respond when a tantrum happens

The most important thing is to stay calm — children learn from how we react. If you're struggling, remember: Stop. Breathe. React calmly.

Try these three steps during a tantrum:

1. Acknowledge their feelings
"It looks like you're feeling really cross/upset/tired."
2. Show you understand why
"You were really looking forward to playing with that toy."
3. Find something that might help
They may simply need food, rest, a hug or a distraction.

If you aren't sure what triggered the tantrum, you can try:

- offering a book or another distraction
- pointing out something new happening nearby
- repeating back their words so they feel heard
- staying close and keeping them safe

For older toddlers, a grounding activity like 5-4-3-2-1 can help calm things down.

Supporting positive behaviour

- Set clear, consistent boundaries. Say what you want in simple language and praise them when they follow instructions.
- Use a calm voice. Shouting usually makes everyone feel worse.
- Avoid comparisons. Every child develops differently.
- Show affection. Hugs, smiles and shared activities help children feel secure and build confidence.

Looking after yourself

Parenting can be exhausting. Try to find time each week to unwind or do something you enjoy. When you look after yourself, it's much easier to stay calm and support your child.

Norovirus

In the last 2 weeks, cases of Norovirus have increased by over 60% across England. Norovirus is a stomach bug that causes vomiting and diarrhoea. It can be very unpleasant, but usually gets better in about 2 days.

The main symptoms of norovirus usually start suddenly and may include:

- feeling sick, being sick (vomiting), diarrhoea

You may also have:

- a high temperature, a headache, tummy pain, body aches and pains

Although it's sometimes called the winter vomiting bug, you can get norovirus at any time of year.

For further information, please see the [NHS website](#)

Protect children with effective hygiene measures.

To help reduce the spread, people are urged to make sure they practice good hygiene. **Alcohol gels do not kill norovirus**, so washing hands regularly with warm soapy water and using bleach-based products to clean surfaces are the best steps people can take to protect themselves and reduce the chance of further spread.

MMRV Vaccine

From 1 January 2026, children started to be offered the MMRV vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella/chickenpox) instead of the MMR vaccine as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule. This means children will receive protection against four diseases instead of three.

Why this matters

While many people consider chickenpox to be a mild childhood illness, it can lead to serious complications including bacterial infections such as strep A, brain and lung inflammation, and stroke. In rare cases, it can be fatal. The introduction of this vaccine will help protect children from these serious complications and reduce hospital admissions. The MMRV vaccine has been safely used for over 10 years in countries including Canada, Australia and Germany, where chickenpox cases and hospital admissions have fallen dramatically. Introducing this vaccine will also reduce missed nursery and school days for children and families.

Who is eligible

- Children born from 1 January 2025: Two doses of MMRV at 12 months and 18 months
- Children born between 1 July 2024 and 31 December 2024: MMRV doses at 18 months and 3 years 4 months
- Children born between 1 September 2022 and 30 June 2024: One MMRV dose at 3 years 4 months
- Selective catch-up programme: Children born between 1 January 2020 and 31 August 2022 will be offered a catch-up dose between November 2026 and March 2028 if they haven't already had chickenpox or two doses of chickenpox vaccine.

MMR vaccine will still be available for older children (and adults) who are ineligible for MMRV but are not yet fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella.

Half Term Activity -

Can you find out the names of these common birds? Can you spot them in your garden or in the local park?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THE NEXT HALF TERM



February

Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th		Half term – Holiday club available.
Monday 23 rd		First day back of half term.
Wednesday 25 th	9:15am-10:00am.	Tea and coffee morning

March

Thursday 5 th		World book day! The children can dress up as their favourite book character.
Monday 16 th	9:00-10:00am	Mother's Day, stay and play!
Friday 20 th		Red nose day! Wear something red!
Friday 27 th	10am-11:30am	Peter Rabbit's easter egg hunt, and party for the children!
Friday 27 th		Last day of Spring term, school closes at 3pm for all children.
Monday 30 th – April 20 th		Easter holidays! Holiday club available.

April

Tuesday 21 st		First day back of summer term.
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