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From The Headteacher & Manager

As we reach the end of the first half of our summer term and look ahead to the May half-term break, we reflect on what has been a wonderful period here at The Hall.

The children have been exposed to memorable experiences and exciting learning opportunities across the Nursery. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our topics, Under the Sea, Jungle & Safari and Dinosaurs. However, the highlight has been our exciting ZooLab visit. This provided a fantastic hands-on experience, allowing the children to closely observe and learn about a variety of animals, an opportunity that sparked great curiosity and enthusiasm.



On Tuesdays, we have been delighted to welcome Bhavna from *Giggly Minds Yoga*. These sessions combine storytelling and movement, creating a fun, calming, and imaginative experience for the children. Our first session told the story of Coco, a very shy butterfly, where the children transformed into different minibeasts, helping Coco build confidence in the big wide world. The sessions have been a wonderful addition to our Tuesdays and are thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff alike.

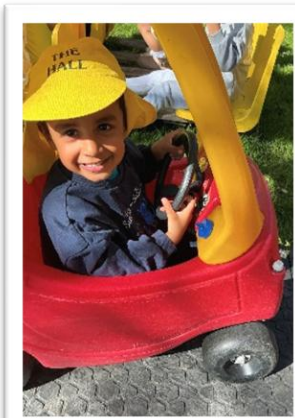
Outdoor play continues to be a much-loved part of the day. The children have been making the most of our garden resources, climbing, balancing, racing on bikes and cars, exploring the pirate sandpit, and engaging in water play, often alongside creative fun in the mud kitchen. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the families who have kindly donated garden toys. These have been extremely popular and have enhanced our outdoor provision; your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

We are already looking forward to next half term, with many more exciting activities planned including father's stay and play, football coaching, Odds Farm trip and summer movie night!

Finally, a sincere thank you to everyone who attended our mini Curriculum and Assessment Evening. Your kind words and positive feedback mean so much to us, and we are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support of our community here at The Hall.

Best wishes, Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Erb

Please note that all children will return after the break on **Tuesday 2nd June**.



Buttercup Class:

Over the half term, the Buttercups have been very busy enjoying a wide range of sensory, creative, and fine motor activities.

The children explored mark making by creating bumblebee prints using potato mashers. They loved dipping the mashers into paint and pressing them onto paper to form different patterns, supporting their early creativity and exploration of textures.

In our sensory tray, the children took part in a “pigs stuck in the mud” rescue activity. They worked enthusiastically to find the pigs hidden in the mud and then carefully washed them clean in water. This activity encouraged curiosity, problem-solving, and lots of imaginative play.

The children then moved on to a fine motor activity, rescuing toy worms from the tuff tray using tweezers. They showed great concentration while carefully picking up the worms and moving them to safety.

A particular favourite was our cow milking activity. Using a cow shape made from a cardboard cut-out and a glove filled with water to represent the udder, the children had the opportunity to squeeze and “milk” the cow.

This fun sensory experience supported the development of hand strength and coordination.

For a lovely sensory experience, the toddlers explored our “flower soup” tray using real flowers. They used spoons to scoop and mix the flowers in water, as well as carefully pulling petals apart, encouraging curiosity and exploration of natural materials.

To finish the term, the children enjoyed a creative activity using toilet roll tube stamping to make flower prints. They dipped the tubes into paint and stamped them onto paper to create colourful patterns.

It has been a wonderful half term full of exploration, creativity, and learning through play. We look forward to many more exciting activities next term.



Bluebell & Daisy Classes:

This term has been full of joy and creativity as the children explored our topic themes together. As you are all aware, Bluebell room and Daisy room have joined together as one class for the remainder of this academic year into a group of 9 children. This transition has been great for the children, supporting their social skills and allowing them to form new friendships. We opened up the dividers between the two rooms and created a large, bright and airy space allowing us all to move freely between the learning zones of the classroom and to explore together, which has been a real treat.

During our 'Under the sea' week, the children loved making starfish from salt dough and enjoyed listening to the story of the topic 'Rainbow Fish'. The children were also engrossed when we did our fine motor activity that involved placing Cheerios on the starfish!

For our Jungle and Safari theme, the children had a great time making safari binoculars, which they used throughout the week in their role play. The tiger maths pasta tuff tray was also very popular and supported their early counting skills in a fun, practical way.

It has been lovely to see the children so engaged, happy, and enthusiastic in their learning and we look forward to another fun filled half term ahead with some exciting topics and our farm trip! Here are some pictures for you to enjoy of the children having fun at nursery.



Poppy Class:

We have had another half term full of learning, fun, and lots of laughter in our Poppy Room!

We dived deep into our “Under the Sea” topic and especially enjoyed the story of The Rainbow Fish. We loved it so much that we created our very own large Rainbow Fish for our classroom using a variety of different materials and textures, while also helping our planet by using recycled resources. Our beautiful Rainbow Fish is now proudly displayed in our classroom for us to see and enjoy every day!

We enjoyed learning lots of interesting facts about different sea creatures and exploring water sensory tuff trays filled with seashells, pebbles, seaweed, and small-world sea creature animals.

Next, we journeyed deep into the jungle and went on safari for a couple of weeks! We explored different animal patterns, learned all about jungle animals, and even went on our very own safari adventure in the garden using binoculars to spot the animals. This was so much fun!

We are also loving our new yoga sessions with Giggly Minds and storytelling through yoga. We have enjoyed it so much that we have been creating our own yoga stories during the afternoons too! Our creative storytelling skills have been incredible.

Alongside this, we have been enjoying maths challenges and team games with our teachers to help build our confidence and problem-solving skills.

Most of all, we have loved spending time outdoors, developing our gross motor skills, and becoming more confident every day while using the larger outdoor equipment.

We are so proud of all the achievements we have made this half term, and we are really looking forward to spending one more half term together as our Poppy Room class.

We have laughed, smiled, and watched friendships bloom every single day in our Poppy Room, where we love to dance, sing, and enjoy learning together in our happy classroom.



Zoo Lab!

What an incredible experience we had when ZooLab came to visit us here at the Hall!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the 60-minute workshop, where we got to meet Millie the millipede, Curly Sue the tarantula, Scarlet the corn snake, Gary the giant African land snail, and Tiana the frog. We had the opportunity to hold, feel, or carefully observe the animals alongside our incredible reptile ranger!

We learned so much from this exciting experience and even took part in fun challenges and activities throughout the session. We also sang some of our favourite songs to help keep the animals calm and happy! Everyone was extremely brave, and we all enjoyed sharing this memorable experience together.

Have a look below at some of the photos from our fantastic time with Zoo Lab!



Garden Fun...

We have all been thoroughly enjoying our new garden, the fantastic new equipment, and all the exciting new resources. We have been spending lots of time outside exploring, investigating, playing, and discovering new ways to learn through outdoor activities! We especially love the climbing frame, using the ladder or rock-climbing wall to reach the top before looking far and wide through the telescope or steering the pirate ship's wheel as we set sail across the seas! We also enjoy the swing, seeing how high we can go and if we can touch the clouds!

The pirate sand pit has been another favourite area, where we dig for treasure and bake cakes with our friends using a variety of sand tools and toys to bring our imaginations and creativity to life. We have also loved racing around the track in the cars, on the bikes and scooters, while using the traffic lights to tell us when to stop and go safely.

The mud kitchen area is always busy too, as we mix mud, leaves, water, and other natural resources to create our very own minibeast café! There are always exciting adventures and learning opportunities happening in our Hall School garden! Even when the sun is shining, we enjoy sitting together in the picnic area for snack time, chatting with our friends and talking about our day.

If you or anyone you know is getting rid of garden toys, donations to us are always warmly welcomed.



Parents' Information



Forthcoming Topics

Super Sports!

Mini Artists

Around the World

Summer at the Seaside...

Summer Fun!

Be Sun Safe

On sunny days please do not forget to apply sun cream on your child before school and pack some in their bag for topping up through the day. A sun hat is also essential. Legionnaires style sunhats are available from us at a cost of £10. Thank you!

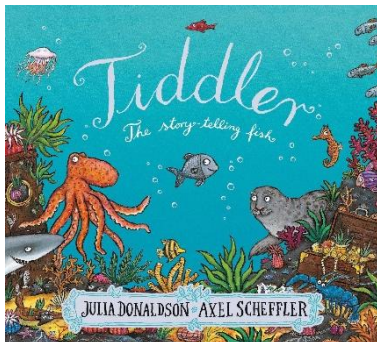
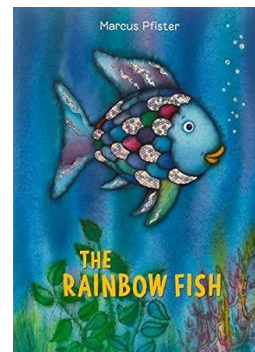


Our favourite books this half term...

Title: The Rainbow Fish

Author: Marcus Pfister

The rainbow fish with its iridescent scales is the most beautiful fish in the hole ocean. But since he is also vain and proud, he becomes more and more onely over time. Then he realizes that you can't win friends through beauty. He overcomes his pride and begins to distribute his glitter scales to the ther fish.



Title: Tiddler

Author: Julia Donaldson

Tiddler is a little fish with a **BIG** imagination!

Every day he tells a tall tale.

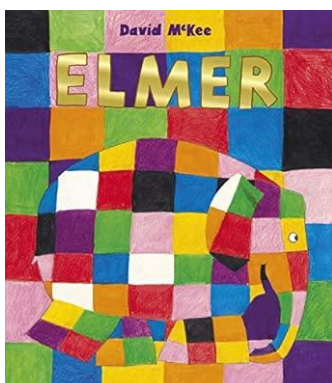
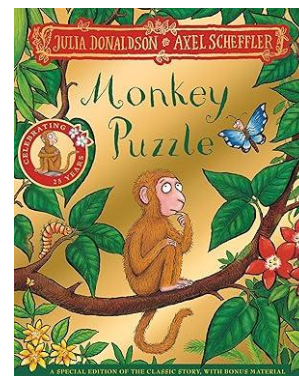
But did he *really* ride a seahorse? Did he *really* meet a mermaid?

And who will believe him when he really does get captured in a net?

Title: Monkey Puzzle

Author: Julia Donaldson

Where is Monkey's mummy? It's not too much fun being lost in the jungle, and little monkey wants his mum. Kindly butterfly is keen to help, but they don't eem to be having much luck and keep finding the wrong animals! But eventually, hey find . . . Dad! It's just as well that he knows exactly where Mum is, and she's waiting with a well-deserved cuddle.



Title: Elmer

Authour: David McKee

Elmer isn't elephant colour. Elmer is different. Elmer is patchwork! This beloved classic bedtime story celebrates kindness, friendship and the things that make us all different.

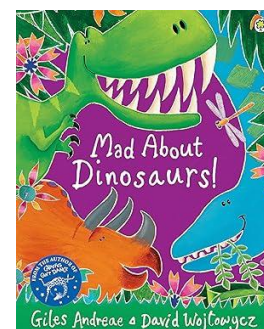
The elephants all love him, but Elmer soon starts to wonder what it would be like to be grey, just like them... With the help of his friends, he soon discovers that the thing that makes him different is exactly what makes him so special! A true modern classic, with over 10 million books sold worldwide and more than 30 original stories to his name, Elmer the patchwork elephant has been a nursery favourite since 1989. A perfect gift for babies, toddlers, birthdays and baby showers.

Title: Mad about Dinosaurs!

Authour: Giles Andreae

Silly Diplodocus, fierce T-Rex, Brontosaurus, Stegosaurus and more...

They're all here in this **bright, bold** book! With a short lively rhyme on each page, fun facts and colourful pictures (plus handy pronunciation guides) his is perfect for young **dinosaur fans** everywhere.



Funding

If you are claiming Government Funding, 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 you the funding and you will be liable for the full fees.

Please note that the funding parents receive decreases as the child gets older. The funding rate changes at age 2 and at age 3, in the term after the child's birthday. To summarise:

Funding Tier	Age	
Highest	9 months to 2 years	Available from age 9 months until the term after your child turns 2
Middle	2 years	Available from the term after your child turns 2 to the term after they turn 3
Lowest	3 & 4 years	Available from the term after your child turns 3 to when they leave

Dates to determine ages in each term:
Autumn – 1 September to 31st December
Spring – 1 January to March 31st
Summer – 1st April to 31st August

CBeebies Parenting

A great website for parents can be found at
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>



Harrow Arts Centre Presents

The Cat in the Hat - Sat 23 – Sun 24 May From the producers of 'Spot's Birthday Party', experience the mischief with the acclaimed stage adaptation of Dr Seuss' The Cat In The Hat! From the moment his tall, red and white-striped hat appears, Sally and her brother know that the cat in the hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat they have ever met. With the trickiest of tricks and craziest of ideas, he turns a rainy afternoon into an amazing adventure. The Cat in the Hat is a lively and engaging first theatre experience for young children. Meet the Cat after the show!



The Tiger Who Came to Tea - Sat 30 – Sun 31 May. Direct from the West End, the Olivier Award nominated smash hit show, The Tiger Who Came to Tea returns on tour. The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big, stripy tiger! Join the tea-guzzling tiger in this delightful family show; packed with oodles of magic, sing-a-long songs and clumsy chaos. Don't miss this stunning stage adaptation of the classic tale of teatime mayhem... expect to be surprised!



When to keep your child off Nursery

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child away from nursery when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

Please follow this link to find out more...

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please note that children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 48 hours.

Families Magazine

Click here for the May/June issue of Families Magazine

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families_north_west_london_may_june_issue_2026?fr=sZGQ5ODkxNDg1NDA



MAY HALF TERM CRASH COURSES

At Rickmansworth School

Dates	Fees	Class Ratio	4 Days
4 Days TUE 26 th MAY – FRI 29 th MAY	Group Lessons Semi Private Private	4:1 2:1 1:1	£44 £72 £120

Mixed Fun Activities

SWIM 50M+

DAY 1 - Stroke Technique
DAY 2 - Water Skills
DAY 3 - Diving
DAY 4 - Lifesaving
DAY 5 - Snorkeling

Made to Measure

Join with three + friends and make up your own class

Adults

Private one to one (All abilities from beginners to improvers)

Summer term-time lessons available at

- The Royal Masonic School for Girls
- Rickmansworth School
- York House School
- Maltman's Green School

To secure your Place BOOK TODAY

info@activeswim.co.uk
0203 7894 790

www.activeswim.co.uk

Saying 'No' to Your Child

By Annette Rawstrone - Nursery World May 2026

It is possible to remain a warm parent while also setting boundaries for your child – and doing so will teach them important life skills.

Who knows which parenting style is in vogue right now? Have a quick Google and every kind of creature appears to be associated with a different approach. Perhaps you identify as a 'panda parent' and trust children to make their own mistakes, hover at a respectful distance like a 'hummingbird parent' or are a 'tiger parent' and push your child to academic or sporting success. Most likely, you are simply wanting to lovingly raise your child and guide their behaviour while encouraging confidence and independence. But will taking a 'soft parenting' approach create a spoiled monster? Or will saying 'no' too often damage your child's spirit? The good news is that warmth and boundaries go hand in hand.

BOUNDARIES MATTER

Boundaries help your child to feel safe. As adults, we can see limits as restrictive, but young children experience them as reassuring. Without boundaries, children can feel overwhelmed.

Clear limits reduce uncertainty. When a parent consistently guides a child's behaviour, they also learn:

What is expected.

What is safe.

How to regulate their emotions.

How to treat others.

Your early years child is still developing their executive functioning skills – impulse control, emotional regulation and decision-making. They can't manage 'big feelings' by themselves and need your support, which can be given through consistent boundaries.

Boundaries also teach tricky social skills such as taking turns and sharing, waiting and following simple instructions. By you setting limits at home you are actually preparing your child to thrive at nursery and school. You are also enabling them to protect themselves – to say no if a child takes a toy from them or to make it known they are not happy if someone touches them in a way they are not comfortable with.

WHEN SHOULD I START?

It is likely that you started to set boundaries from when your child was very young without even realising it – by following consistent sleep and feeding routines, etc. But it's never too late to introduce consistent routines, limits and boundaries. For example, say no to another request for sweets and offer fruit instead.

CAN I SAY 'NO'?

There is nothing wrong with being firm and direct, but it can sometimes be better to reframe how you say things. As your child gets more independent, hearing the word 'no' can create a power struggle. Instead, you can give your child some autonomy by offering limited choices. For example, if you do not want your child going outside barefoot, you can offer them a choice of footwear. With under-threes, redirection can often work well because their attention spans are shorter. You can use that to your advantage by, for example, removing the breakable item you don't want them playing with, offering something different and shifting their attention. Also, be calm while explaining limits. Instead of saying, 'No more biscuits', you can say, 'That's enough treats for today.' This is stating a fact rather than entering a negotiation.

You can show empathy while maintaining your boundaries and validate your child's emotions. 'I can see you're angry I turned the TV off. It was a fun cartoon but it has finished now, which is a shame.' Your child may not be happy, but you are being firm and showing that you understand their upset.

BUT WHAT IF THEY CRY?

There will be times when your child will protest. It is important to remain calm and firm. Repeat the limit if needed, but avoid lectures, stay in control by keeping your voice low and slow. Remain physically present by giving a hug, stroking their back or holding their hand as they struggle with their intense feelings. If you relent then they learn that demonstrating their big feelings will get the outcome they want. If you remain consistent, then they learn that emotions are safe and allowed but the limits remain.

Remember that setting boundaries when your child is young is not about control but is about being consistent, giving guidance and enabling your child to feel secure.

Summer Water Safety

A campaign to educate parents about water safety for under-fives has launched as new statistics reveal 88 per cent of all child drownings happen in the absence of adult supervision.

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) has created the biannual Splash Safety at Home campaign to educate parents and carers about water safety for under-fives as [data](#) from the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) shows the age group continues to be at high risk for drowning.

The campaign emphasises the importance of supervising children in the water as NCMD data shows 88 per cent of all drownings in England between April 2019 and March 2025 occurred in the absence of supervision. In many cases, this could have been prevented had there been adult supervision. Over a third of all child drowning deaths happened in a bath, hot tub or swimming pool. The Splash Safely at Home campaign also aims to address common misconceptions parents among parents about water safety.



A RLSS UK survey of around 1,000 parents found that 24 per cent falsely believe it is ok to leave a child alone in water if they are wearing armbands of a swim vest. It also revealed that most parents wrongly assume they would be able to hear their child struggling in water. However, RLSS UK says that children under five drown quickly, quietly, and in as little as two inches of water. This means leaving their side even for a moment can be enough to miss a child silently slipping under the water, it warns.

Going into the summer, RLSS UK is encouraging everyone to follow its advice to stay safe in and around water at home in the garden:

Supervise at all times. Keep young children within arm's reach when in or around water at home, even if they are wearing swimming aids such as armbands.

Don't allow older siblings to supervise in the water.

Avoid distractions such as using a mobile phone, because drowning can happen silently and in a matter of minutes.

After use, cover and replace hot tub and swimming pool covers immediately after use.

Keep ponds and pools out of bounds by locking back doors and garden gates and fencing off water areas with sturdy fencing at least 4ft high. Fit a strong mesh or grill that can support a child's weight or fill in ponds until your child is older. Always empty paddling pools immediately after use. Empty and turn over containers holding rainwater and turn off hosepipes at the tap.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THE NEXT HALF TERM



June

Monday 1 st		Teacher training day – Holiday club available.
Tuesday 2 nd		Back to school!
Tuesday 2 nd		School report day!
Wednesday 3 rd		Football coach session
Monday 22 nd	8:45am-9:45am	Father's stay and play
Tuesday 23 rd		Odds Farm School summer outing.

July

Wednesday 1 st	2:30-4:30pm	Summer movie night
Wednesday 8 th		Summer party day! Children only.
Friday 10 th		Last day of summer term – School closes at 12pm for all.

TERM DATES

We follow independent school term dates, so we align with siblings, most of who are at local independent schools.

Term time is 33 weeks a year, Holiday Club 15 weeks a year.

We are closed 2 weeks at Christmas and 2 weeks end August.

SUMMER TERM (2026)

Half Term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May (holiday club available)

Monday 1st June – INSET Day (holiday club available)

Tuesday 2nd June – All pupils return

Term Ends: Friday 10th July

AUTUMN TERM (2026)

Holiday Club available Tuesday 1st to Friday 4 September

Inset for Staff: Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 September (Holiday club available – limited spaces)

Term Begins: Wednesday 9 September

Half Term: Monday 19 October – Friday 30 October

Term Ends: Friday 11th December

Holiday Club – available to 18th December

School Closed 2 weeks over Christmas