

Ashleigh Nursery

Newsletter



1st April 2022

This week



We have completed another term! We cannot quite believe we are about to enter our final term before the Summer Holidays. We hope that you enjoy the Easter cards and baskets made by the children and have a jolly good break with your families.

The weather! We were so lucky to have sunshine on our second Spring Walk on Wednesday this week. We spotted even more signs that the weather is warming up with new buds on plants, daffodils, leaves on the new hedges, new grass appearing on the freshly seeded areas, even the children's bean plants have unfurled from the soil in their pots. It was glorious!

The children were treated to a close up look at one of our Ashleigh Farm chickens. Farmer Feeney let the children gently stroke one of the birds and another one laid an egg in front of their eyes! The children counted 15 eggs in total. Despite the snow / hail / cold towards the end of the week, we have been having a lot of fun playing group games outside: Duck, Duck, Goose and What's the time Mr Wolf?



Our word of the week was 'Easter' and we talked about how Christian people think about Jesus at this time of year and how we can all feel hopeful with the idea of a new beginning. We also talked about how we might celebrate Easter, such as exchanging cards, Easter eggs, eating Hot Cross Buns and some of the different traditions associated with this time of year.

In Phonics this week we played a whole class game of 'Rhyming Words'. The children were challenged to match up the top and the bottom of an egg that contained a pair of rhyming words (wall / ball). It was lovely to see them discussing their idea, saying the words out loud, and helping each-other.

In Maths we began thinking about subtraction. We used toys, games, number lines and Part Part Whole models to show what happens when you start with one set, and then split it into smaller sets. The children were excellent at joining in with these 'problems' and showing their answers on their fingers! We will of course be revisiting subtraction in the near future.

After Easter

Nursery will re-open on Wednesday 20th April.

We will spend time settling back into our Nursery routines and talking about things we did over Easter. Our new topic which will also continue into the following week as it is such a brilliant one, is called Caterpillars to Butterflies. Of course, The Very Hungry Caterpillar will be read a few times! This book was first published in 1969 yet is as loved by today's children as it was 53 years ago.

We will also learn The Tale of the Curious Caterpillar which addresses changes and the feelings we can have when faced with change. Our intention is that the children will know the stories so well, that they will be able to talk about what happens, sequence events and freeze frame the emotions and experiences felt by the characters in the books.

Our maths focus will be: shape and space with the learning hinging on the word Symmetry. There will be lots of wonderful arts and crafts connected to symmetry, butterflies and caterpillars.

Our Phonics will be Voice Sounds. We will be learning the importance of pitch matching and using our hands to show if the tune goes up or down. The children will learn to respond by mirroring to different tunes.

Book of the week

The VERY hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle
The Curious Caterpillar

Polite reminders

Named sunhats and sun cream may be bought into school for the Summer Term.

We are a **nut free school** so please do not send any form of nuts into school, including peanut butter, we do have children with specific allergies.

Please name your child's belongings; clothes, hats, gloves, water bottle, lunch box etc

Thank you!

Home learning

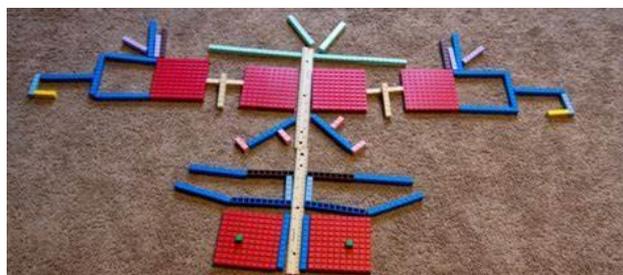
In the event your child needs to isolate, the Learning links at home section below, will help with continuity of curriculum.

Learning links at home

Watch readings of the *The Curious Caterpillar* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Talk about the lifecycle and name the 4 stages of change. There are lots of different crafts ideas you could try to help your child visualise what the stages look like.



Maths: Mirrored paintings is a good way to introduce the idea of 'Symmetry'. Use Lego / blocks to make symmetrical butterflies / patterns. You could create one side, then challenge your child to finish off the other side, then swap.



Have a singing morning. Play 'Name that tune', by beginning with only one sound, then adding the next, then the next, until your child is able to recognise then finish the tune. You could also change the starting note and sing in different pitches.

Continue noticing and congratulating children when they shine like Ashleigh Stars.

They are getting used to and are very interested in our Guiding Stars and will love to tell you all about it: Being safe, Being kind, Trying your best, Team Work and Great Listening!

Stars shine brighter when they are with others.

Please also see the main school newsletter for important dates.