

Ashleigh Nursery Newsletter



29th April 2022

This week

Thank you so much families for attending our parents' evening appointment and an extra special thank you too for being so understanding when our booking system didn't quite behave itself!

If you have not managed to make an appointment, please contact the office and we will arrange an alternative time, convenient to you. It was a pleasure to be able to invite you in to school and talk about your wonderful children and so lovely to hear your positive comments. We really do appreciate your feedback.

This week we have consolidated our learning about The Lifecycle of the Butterfly. The children have described the process using props, photographs and books. They have made models, drawn pictures, made paintings and learnt a story (The Cautious Caterpillar). Please ask your children to tell you the 4 stages!

We had a celebratory end to our Letters and Sounds phonics scheme with a lot of lovely singing! The children learnt the concept of 'pitch' and sang their favourite nursery rhymes, as well as our Ashleigh Nursery welcome song 'Hello, Everybody' in high and low pitches, all accompanied by Mrs Lynch on her guitar. The children were fascinated by the use of a 'capo' to alter the pitch and a 'plectrum' to increase the volume.

Our word of the week was 'symmetrical' and the children created a giant butterfly using pairs of colourful blocks to create matching patterns on both sides of the insect.

Next week

Read, Write, Inc. (RWI).

This term we are very excited to begin our new phonics scheme 'Read, Write, Inc. (RWI)'. The children will learn the routines, signals and resources that are unique to the scheme, created by Ruth Miskin. The scheme will lead seamlessly into the next stage of your child's phonics journey, as it has also been chosen by our sister schools: Robert Kett, Browick Road and Wicklewood Primaries. Our belief is that this familiarity, will afford the children a confidence and knowledge that will be built on in their Reception year.

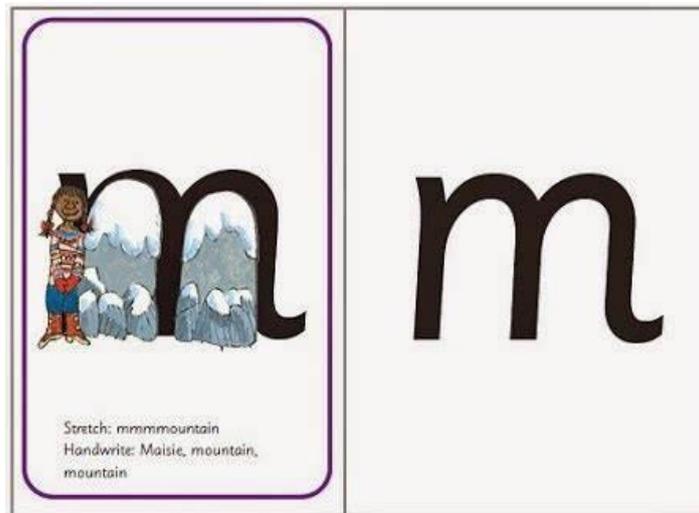
We will be teaching the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters, in the prescribed order, that will lead into phonics blending next year.

A common question is often 'What happens if my child cannot pronounce the sounds?' This isn't a problem for learning to read as long as we know what sound the child is trying to say. This is not something to worry about.

Many children have a few sounds that they can hear clearly but find it difficult to say, particularly the l-sound, r-sound, w-sound, th-sound, s-sound, sh-sound and j-sound. Often they say a t-sound for the c-sound; "tttssh" for the s-sound; "w" for the r-sound and "r" for the l-sound. You can help your child by encouraging him or her to look at your mouth when you say the sound.

The sounds are divided into 2 categories 'stretchy' and 'bouncy'.

Next week will be beginning with the 'M' sound. It is important to note that this is sounded with the lips closed: 'Mmmmm', (not Muh) and is a 'stretchy' sound.



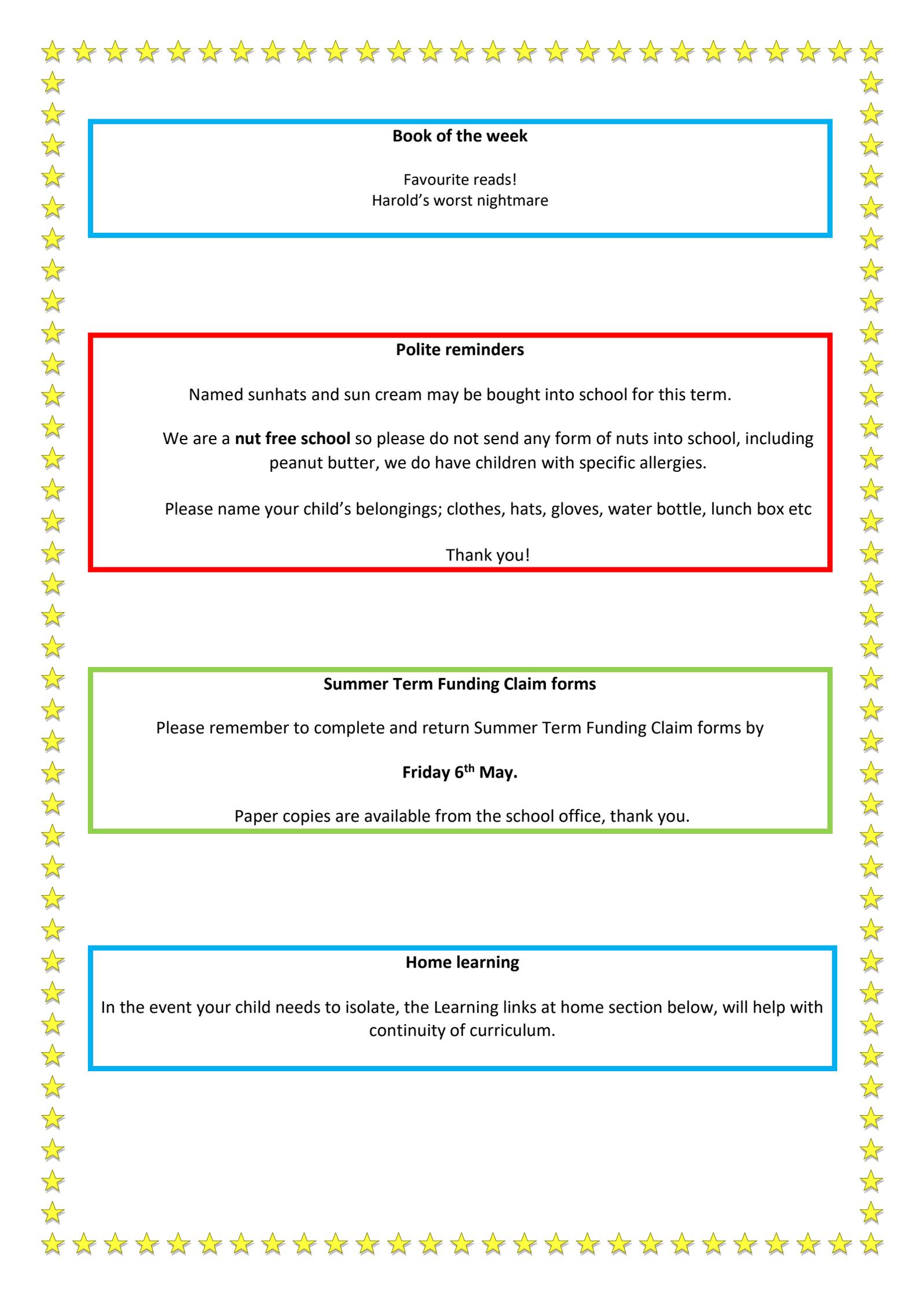
Attached to this newsletter, is the document 'How to read your child' which has tips on how to encourage your child's lifelong love of reading and links to the Ruth Miskin Training portal, where more resources and suggested reading materials are available. But, simply reading your child's favourite book to them as much as possible with lots of exaggerated voices will have your child hooked. It really is as simple as that.

Our topic next week will be animals and their babies, with our inputs complemented by arts and crafts activities to make the learning memorable.

Our maths focus, and word of the week, is 'position'. We will be using language to describe where objects are placed: above, below, behind, beside... We will be challenging the children to use their words to describe placement (without pointing!).

Our values content will be about 'resolving conflict' and will be centred around a lovely story of called 'Harold's Worst Nightmare', about a pampered adult cat who lives a wonderful life at the centre of his owners' worlds, spoilt only when a new kitten arrives. Harold's world is turned upside down and has to find a way to adjust to his new life. We will be having lots of conversations about how to manage difficult situations.

Many parents have been asking about what they can do at home to help their child prepare for next year and we have been thinking the same. We will be having a focused week of activities to promote fine motor skills and looking at how to hold a pen correctly with a tripod grip.



Book of the week

Favourite reads!
Harold's worst nightmare

Polite reminders

Named sunhats and sun cream may be bought into school for this 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!

Summer Term Funding Claim forms

Please remember to complete and return Summer Term Funding Claim forms by

Friday 6th May.

Paper copies are available from the school office, 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

Phonics

Ask your child what their favourite book is and read it again and again. Ask your child to 'read' it back to you with their version prompted by the pictures.

Handwriting

Practise making marks holding a pen correctly.



Values

Watch a reading of Harold's worst nightmare:

[Harold's worst nightmare - Twinkl original story - read by Mrs Dodd - YouTube](#)

Talk about what can make us cross and how we can deal with those emotions. Describe scenarios to your child e.g. "What would you do if your friend won't play with you?" Understand and validate their feelings and discuss a solution e.g. "That sounds hurtful, I can see that would make you feel quite lonely. I wonder if you could find another friend or talk to a teacher?"

Maths

Put a soft toy in some funny places and ask your child to tell you how to find them using: prepositions: Teddy is on the top shelf, behind the book, under the blanket". Make sure you don't find teddy too easily!

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.