

Ashleigh Nursery

Newsletter



6th May 2022

This week

Another shorter, but nonetheless very busy week done!

Firstly, a belated but important notice- we welcomed back Ms Bruce last week after her maternity leave! The children were delighted to see a new face in Nursery and the staff. We are very pleased to have her back.

This week the children have been learning about animals and their young, pairing up parent animals to their offspring by playing games, using small world toys, creating craft, taking part in learning inputs and conversations.

Our special focus on 'holding a pen correctly' has worked really well. The children have practised using special markers on illuminated screens, white board pens on whiteboards and chunky felt tipped pens. The children are increasing the control they have when drawing, as well as learning how to write letters. The tripod grip, using 3 fingers, can be tricky at first, but the children are all keen to have a go.

Our word of the week 'Position' was used to describe placement of toys and other objects around the classrooms, outside space and characters on the interactive whiteboard. Children practised using the words: 'under, on, inside, behind, above, next to' and have really increased their vocabulary.

Read, Write, Inc. (RWI).

The children have taken like ducks to water to our new Phonics scheme. The first session began with the simple signals- Team Stop and My turn, Your turn. These signals, alongside the RWI resources are used by many schools, and the learning pattern will become increasingly familiar to them as they come to recognise the sounds, their phrases and practise drawing the letter formations in the air. Ask your child if they can remember the phrase for 'm' (Maisie, Mountain, Mountain). By remembering the pictures on the speed sound cards, they are more likely to remember the formation of the letter.

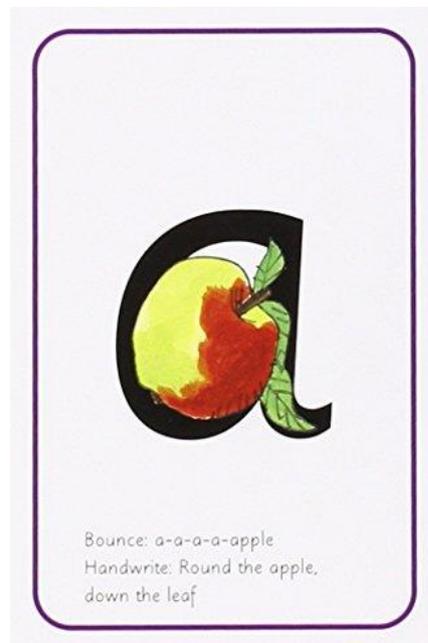
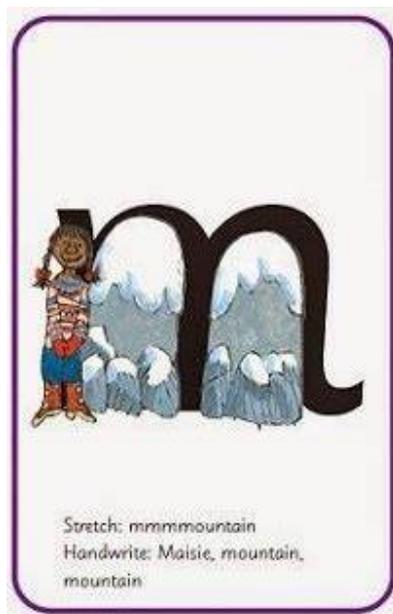
Talking of letter, we were delighted this week to see one of the children bring in a beautiful twig in the shape of a 'J'. How fantastic that they are noticing the shapes of letters in the environment.

Next week

We will be continuing with the 'Animals' theme, looking in particular at Farm animals. We are planning to go on another Ashleigh Farm walk, where we will be able to see the hens in their larger coup, now that they are allowed out. We will learn about the lifecycle of a chicken, and think about how it differs to the butterfly. We are hoping to take receipt of our chrysalises too next week, although we were lucky enough to see how they will look when one our children brought in their chrysalises from home!

Read, Write, Inc. (RWI)

Next week we will be learning 'a' as well as revising 'm'. After next week, we will judge how quickly we need to move on to the next sound, according to the progress the children make. As the weeks go by, we will be revisiting all the learnt sounds. As explained last week, the sounds are divided into 2 categories 'stretchy' and 'bouncy'. 'a' is a bouncy sound and the formation is learnt with the phrase: 'Round the apple, down the leaf'.



In accordance with the Ruth Miskin Nursery Guidance, we are planning on learning / practising a Nursery Rhyme every week, as well as continuing reading Traditional Tales. Next week will be 'Old MacDonald had a farm'. Learning traditional tales and Nursery rhymes is as important to a child's language development as learning speed sounds.

Our important text next week will be 'Little Red Hen', which has been chosen to explain our Values content of 'Working Together'. We will be telling the story, freeze-framing to capture the main events and the feelings noticed, making lolly-stick puppets, kitchen roll tube windmills and asking the children to tell the tale back to each-other using pictures.

Maths

Next week, we will be learning about 3-Dimensional shapes. We will be using our collection of geometric forms to learn the names and the properties of each shape, by counting the sides / faces and the corners.

Book of the week

The Little Red Hen

Any favourite traditional tales

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!

Special request!

We will be sowing cress seeds next week in our 'indoor garden centre' role play area. If possible, could you please send your child in with an empty, clean yogurt pot to grow their cress? Please do not worry if this is not possible, we will be able to find an alternative.

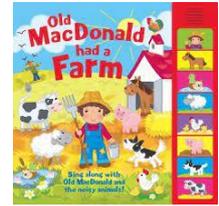
Home learning

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

Sing Old MacDonalD, with lots of animal noises and expression. Practise the 'a' sound, air-writing it, 'drawing it' with a finger in mud / runny paint on foil / sand. Read some Traditional Tales. Modern stories are amazing, but Traditional Tales are still very much loved and relevant to young children.



Handwriting

Continue practising making marks holding a pen correctly.

The Little Red Hen

There are some lovely craft ideas online, as well as many readings if you do not have the book.

[The Little Red Hen retold by Susanna Davidson - YouTube](#)

Remember to talk about how important 'Working Together' is!



Maths

Look for 3-Dimensional shapes around you. Line up tins, glue sticks, cereal packets. Count their sides / corners to see what properties they have.

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.