

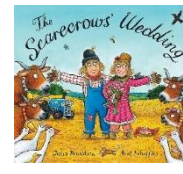
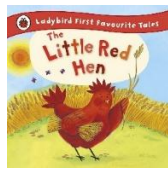
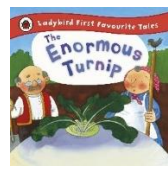
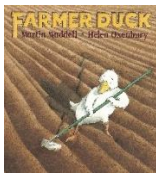
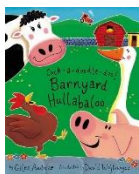
EYFS Newsletter Summer 1



Theme: Down at the farm

Get ready for a busy term as we head 'Down on the Farm'! Our little investigators will be getting stuck into the world of agriculture, from exploring heavy machinery like tractors and tools to discovering the science behind how our food grows in the mud. Through stories like *The Little Red Hen* and *Supertato*, we will be tracing the journey of our food "from field to fork," learning about the hard work farmers do, and discovering how to fuel our bodies with healthy meals. We can't wait to see our budding farmers grow in confidence as they explore animal habitats, plant their own vegetables, and learn exactly what our animal friends provide for us!

Book opportunities:



These are some of the books we will be exploring, listening to and enjoying during this topic.

Reading and Writing:

Nursery

Our Nursery literacy focuses on the sounds and rhythms of the farm. Younger children will explore the sounds around us by mimicking tractor rhythms and playing listening games to build auditory discrimination. Our older children will focus on name writing, oral blending and segmenting, and recognizing Set 1 sounds, using "mud" trays for sensory mark-making and finger exercises to build the pencil grip and control needed for writing.

Reception

For our Reception children, we will develop reading and writing fluency using both our farm topic and the text *The Extraordinary Gardener*. We will focus on reading words consistent with their phonic knowledge and re-reading books to build confidence, fluency, and enjoyment. Children will demonstrate understanding by retelling narratives and using recently introduced vocabulary during role-play and discussions. As they compose their own writing, they will be encouraged to re-read what they have written to check it makes sense.

Maths:

Nursery

In Nursery, we focus on stopping at 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Through targeted provision, children will match, sort, and compare, using language like more than, fewer than, and the same. We will hear and say number names, explore and build with shapes and objects, and explore repeats. This rolling cycle allows us to focus on plugging gaps and consolidating their mathematical foundations.

Reception

This term's maths is all about developing a deep "number sense." We will be building 9 and 10, helping children understand how these numbers are made—such as seeing 6 as '5 and a bit'—and exploring how to compose and decompose 10. The children will practice subitising to 6, instantly recognising groups of objects without counting. We will also manipulate and decompose shapes to see how they fit together, while visualising, building, and mapping numbers to 20 and beyond to understand their order and comparison.

Physical development:

In Physical Development, we are building strength and coordination across all ages. Our younger Nursery children are developing core strength, learning to feed themselves, and experimenting with starting and stopping on signal. Older Nursery children are moving with confidence—slithering, rolling, and climbing—while beginning to form name letters and manage their own clothing. In Reception, the focus is on negotiating space safely and mastering the tripod grip and small tools. During Games, children will work co-operatively to throw, keep score, and follow rules in team and tagging activities.

Communication and language:

In communication and language, we are nurturing confident speakers and attentive listeners. Younger Nursery children are learning to track stories, shift their focus to a speaker, and build vocabulary through "small world" play. Older Nursery children are developing the "art of the turn," learning to negotiate roles in games, predict story events, and use talk to explain feelings. In Reception, children are building the focus to listen despite distractions and provide verbal summaries. We are encouraging the use of full sentences with words like "because" or "but" and providing opportunities to speak to an audience to build "performance" confidence.

Expressive Arts and Design:

In Expressive Arts and Design, children will explore a variety of textures and techniques inspired by the farm and the natural world. We will experiment with sensory materials like wool, feathers, and dough to create 3D models, and use printing and painting—from vegetable stamps to tractor tyre tracks—to explore patterns. Through sculpting, weaving, and collaborative building, the children will develop their fine motor skills and creative expression, using their imaginations to turn everyday objects into artistic masterpieces.

Understanding the world:

In Understanding the World, we are exploring the wonders of the farm and the natural environment. Children will investigate where animals live, how we care for them, and the important role of the farmer in our community. We will observe the life cycles of plants by planting seeds and exploring what they need to grow, while also discovering the "journey of food"—from milling wheat into flour to seeing where wool, milk, and eggs come from. Through hands-on experiments, we will discuss healthy choices and use our senses to explore the textures and states of different natural materials.

Suggested home learning activities:

- Reading phonics book 3 times a week (Please sign diary)- Reception
- Weekly homework in homework books- Reception
- Find a small group of items (up to 5) like socks, spoons, or stones. Practice saying the number names in order and matching them to each other.
- Look for repeating patterns around the house or on the way to school—perhaps on a shirt, a rug, or a fence.
- Look at a pair of hands or a ten-frame (like an egg carton). Can you see 7 as 5 and 2 more? Or 8 as 5 and 3 more?
- Find an object (like a cereal box or a sandwich) and talk about how you can "decompose" it. If you cut the sandwich, what shapes do you have now?
- Find a favourite book at home. Practice retelling the story using the pictures, or try to subitise small groups of items on the page (instantly seeing there are 3 birds without counting them).
- If you have plants or weeds nearby, look closely at them. Can you draw or write a label for the roots, the stem, or the leaves?
- Next time you have a snack, talk about where it might have come from. Does it come from a plant? An animal? How did the farmer help it get to your plate?