

This week we have been focusing on stories in celebration of World Book Day on Thursday. The children have loved exploring a range of books and taking part in themed activities. We enjoyed creating a beautiful butterfly inspired by *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, as well as making colourful *Rumble in the Jungle* masks—among many other story-based crafts.

The children have also had great fun dressing up, washing vegetables, and planting them in the soil as part of our role-play and sensory exploration.

In phonics, we have been learning the sounds **M** and **D**, and the children have enjoyed joining in with our group-time game, *Bertha the Bus*.

Music Time



We continued to learn our Respect Song in music. This links beautifully with our school value for this half term, helping children understand how to be kind and thoughtful to one another.

[Respect Song With Action Classroom Song Assembly Song School Song YouTube Min khant zaw](#)

Story time

On Thursday we read the old oak tree as part of the whole school.

The Old Oak Tree also plays a role in our learning about the world around us. It helps the children develop early scientific understanding—such as how trees grow, why leaves change colour, and how living things depend on each other



[Bedtime Stories: Tom Hardy reads The Oak Tree | CBeebies](#)

Other stories we have read this week include-

[The Very Hungry Caterpillar | Eric Carle | Gentle Fan Animated Story for Toddlers | StoryGaze Kids](#)

Rumble in the jungle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgd-fofQegaM>

Thank you for your continued support
Mrs Bradley and the pre-school Team

P.E – Gymnastics

In P.E this week we have continued with our gymnastics. The children loved exploring different ways of moving, balancing, and travelling safely around the space. We have also done a minibeast warmup by moving around the hall like a minibeast.





Spring Term Parents' Evenings:

 Wednesday 18th March 3:30pm - 7pm

 Thursday 19th March 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Please click the link below to book your appointment

 <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk/code/5h3e3>

 Time slots will be 10 minutes per child.

This is a valuable opportunity, at just over half way through this academic year, for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their current attainment and progress.

Easter craft session- You are warmly invited to join your child in the preschool classroom on Monday 23rd March at 2:00pm for a fun afternoon of Easter crafting.

We will be making and creating lots of different Easter-themed crafts, and we would love for you to come and share this experience with your child.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets will be on sale from Monday 9th March right up until the craft session.

There will be Easter eggs as prizes, and every child will receive an Easter treat!

We hope you can join us for this lovely event.



Developing Independence in the Early Years

Independence helps children grow in confidence, build resilience and feel proud of what they can do for themselves. At school, we support children to take small steps towards becoming capable, confident learners.

What Independence Looks Like in School

- Having a go before asking an adult for help
- Managing simple self-care such as toileting, handwashing and putting on shoes
- Making choices during play and exploring their own ideas
- Helping with small responsibilities like tidying or fetching resources
- Using words to express needs, feelings or preferences

These everyday skills help children feel secure, capable and ready for new challenges.

How Families Can Build Independence at Home

- **Offer simple choices** — “Red cup or blue cup?” Choice builds confidence without overwhelming them.
- **Use predictable routines** — Consistent morning and bedtime routines help children remember what comes next.
- **Break tasks into steps** — “First shoes, then coat” gives structure and reduces stress.
- **Allow extra time** — A few extra minutes lets children try for themselves without feeling rushed.
- **Praise effort, not perfection** — “You tried really hard to zip your coat” encourages persistence.
- **Create child-friendly spaces** — Low hooks, reachable cups and toy baskets make independence easier.
- **Let them help with real jobs** — Setting the table, watering plants or sorting laundry builds responsibility and pride.
- **Encourage problem-solving** — Ask “What could you try next?” instead of fixing things straight away.
- **Model calm patience** — Children mirror adult behaviour; your tone helps them stay regulated.

The Difference It Makes

When children are supported at home and school, they begin to:

- Approach new tasks with confidence
- Manage small challenges with less adult support
- Communicate their needs more clearly
- Show pride in their achievements