

# Newsletter

Friday 17th April 2026

## Round up of the week:

This week, the children have loved exploring our castles and dragons theme. We began with "How to Catch a Dragon", which inspired lots of imaginative play and discussion. The children also enjoyed a book called "Knight School," taking part in fun physical challenges and building their confidence. Throughout the week, the children took part in a range of creative activities, including designing crowns, shields, and princess outfits. They worked together to build castles and enjoyed small world play, creating their own stories and adventures.

We linked our maths learning to the theme by counting dragon eggs, Kings' treasures, jewels for crowns, and matching numicon to the castle. The children also enjoyed mark-making, including writing invitations and drawing castles, as well as sensory play like dragon swamp and princess dust.

We finished the week by celebrating St George's Day with stories, role play, and outdoor dragon hunts. It has been a fun and engaging week full of creativity and imagination!

Next week's theme is Artists.



## Value of the month:

This week we have been exploring the value of honesty, encouraging the children to tell the truth—for example, when something gets knocked over or a mistake is made—and helping them understand that being honest helps us fix problems together.

## Reminders

- Complete Parent and Child Review
- Complete Parent Questionnaire
- Pack spare clothes (water play)
- Accept your child's school place by 30<sup>th</sup> April

# Outdoor Learning

Outside in the garden this week, there has been a real hive of activity as the children built and role-played with a giant castle. They took on the roles of mighty knights and fierce dragons, bringing their imaginations to life. On Monday, they painted the cardboard boxes used for the castle and throughout of the week they decorated the wooden equipment with chalk patterns. Using sticks, tape, card and feathers, the children created their own stick dragons, which became very popular as they raced them around the garden. The children learnt how to be safe with fire and had a go at using flint to create their own dragon flames!

The children also used natural resources and paper shapes to make beautiful crowns fit for any king or queen. They gathered materials from around the garden to build dragon nests and went on an exciting hunt for dragon eggs. On Friday, the children explored the story of Zog, building caves for dragons and creating golden stars just like in dragon school.



## Nursery Rhymes

**Nursery Rhymes and Songs**  
- A to Z

[Link](#)

What's your favourite Nursery Rhyme?

Why are nursery rhymes important?

Oral language skills – children learn new vocabulary, sentence patterns and expression

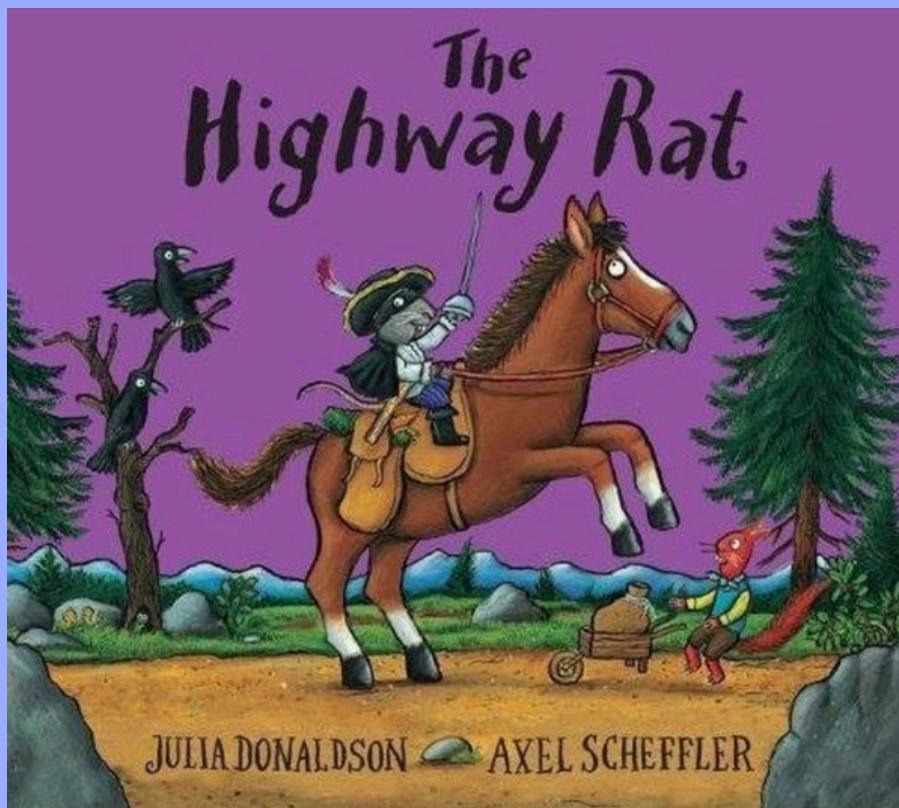
Rhyming awareness – a crucial foundation for early reading and phonics

Early number skills – counting, sequencing, addition and subtraction all come to life

Memory and recall – repetition helps build strong learning pathways

Confidence and communication – children begin to join in, perform and express themselves

# Staff Favourite Stories



“The Highway Rat’ by Julia Donaldson is one of my favourite children’s books, mainly because it was my son’s favourite book and I had to read it to him so many times! He used to love acting as the Highway Rat and reciting the lines during role play, which shows how engaging and memorable the story is for children. The repetition helps children join in and builds confidence with storytelling. I also like the learning points within the story, as it gently teaches important lessons about choices and consequences.”

“Give me your buns and your biscuits!  
Give me your chocolate éclairs!  
For I am the Rat of the highway...”

Sarah

# Important Dates

Spring Term (11 weeks)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Break for Easter

Summer Term (13 weeks)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

**Sports Day - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Half term - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Farm Visit (am) - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - **Close at 12:00**

Graduation and Picnic

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 9.30 - 11.00:

Stay and Play Session (New Children)

# GOLDEN RULES

1.

**Be kind:**

- Gentle hands
- Kind words
- Caring for our toys



Let's share our smiles with all the world!

2.

**Be safe:**

- Walking inside
- Hands to ourselves



Keep our friends and toys safe and sound!

3.

**Be ready:**

- Listening ears
- Looking eyes
- Give things a try



Let's learn and play — we'll reach the sky!

Be kind, be safe, be ready each day —  
That's the preschool way!

