



# Newsletter

24/01/2025 Spring Term Issue 2

#shineatpriorweston

Virtual tour @ <https://bit.ly/32RoLWi>

#unitedagainstbullying

**We aim high \* We are resilient \* We are curious learners \* We value diversity \* We are respectful**

Dear Golden Lane families,

We have had a busy start to the Spring term in Early Years.

We use Tapestry as way to share learning moments from your child's day. This is an easy-to-use secure online learning journal that keeps a record of your child's experiences. Staff will include a short comment about the developmental steps seen. Staff also use it as a way to share with families the focus learning for the week and that the weeks coming. Please make sure you are logged into the app to keep up to date with your child's learning.

You can also have a login for family so they can see and comment of the photos as well.

Bev & Rae

Deputy Head & Children's Centre Lead



## Dates for your Diary

<b>January 2025</b>	
<b>Wednesday 29th January</b>	<b>Lunar New Year</b>
<b>February 2025</b>	
<b>Monday 17th February– Friday 21st February</b>	<b>Half term– Term time pupils only</b>
<b>April 2025</b>	
<b>Thursday 17th April</b>	<b>Last day– Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Tuesday 22nd April</b>	<b>Term begins</b>
<b>June 2025</b>	
<b>Wednesday 25th June</b>	<b>Class photos</b>
<b>July 2025</b>	
<b>Monday 7th July– afternoon</b>	<b>Nursery &amp; Reception sports day– on school pitch</b>
<b>Tuesday 22nd July</b>	<b>End of summer term</b>



## EYFS curriculum

There are seven areas of learning and development across the curriculum. All areas of learning are important and inter-connected. These areas are divided up into three **prime areas**. These are Communication and Language (CL), Physical Development (PD) and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). Then there are the four **specific areas**, Literacy (Lit), Mathematics (MD), Understanding the World (UtW) and Expressive Arts and Design (EAD).

Each issue we will focus on one area of learning with ways you can support at home.

## Communication and Language

Children's speech develops from babble, to words, to simple sentences through hundreds of hours of interactions with adults. Studies show that once babies begin to understand words their vocabulary increases quickly:

- by age 1, children recognise about 50 words
- by age 3, children recognise about 1,000 words
- by age 5, children recognise about 10,000 words

Having a large vocabulary helps children learn more. Words allow them to make sense of the world around them.

Communication and language is a EYFS prime area which means that it's one of the important building blocks for all the other areas. If it's not developed early it's difficult to achieve later.

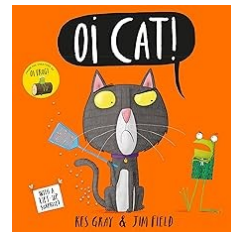
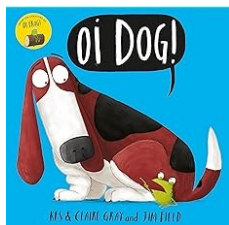
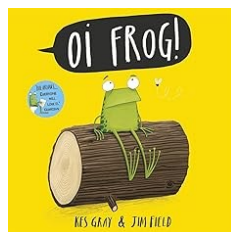
Children's language skills are connected to their overall development and can predict their educational success. As speaking and listening develops, children build foundations for literacy, for making sense of visual and verbal signs and ultimately for reading and writing.

Find more information on the following resource from the Institute of Education

[https://birthto5matters.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ite\\_resource\\_1.pdf](https://birthto5matters.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ite_resource_1.pdf)

## Recommend reading

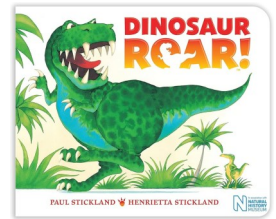
Stories with repeated refrains and predictable events are great for getting children to join in and explore the rhythm of the story. The 'Oi' series by Kes Gray and Jim Field are perfect to share and enjoy together. Oi Frog! Is the first in the series. Who sits on what? Frog is in for a shock...remember it has to rhyme. This book is also good for introducing new vocabulary and inspiring the rhyming poet in your family.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2da5yu6rpdg>

## News from baby room

In the baby room, we are pleased to share our book of the month, "Dinosaur Roar." This engaging choice not only captures our little ones' attention but also supports the development of communication and language skills within the prime areas of the curriculum. With many of our babies showing a keen interest in dinosaurs, this cheerful and entertaining book is an ideal way to start the year. Throughout our exploration, we will enhance sensory skills, stimulate imagination, strengthen communication and language abilities, introduce math concepts, and learn about the emotions of the dinosaurs. We look forward to an inspiring journey together!



## News from toddler room

Join us in this exciting adventure "We're going on a bear hunt" which is a great story about facing adversity. A family decide to go looking for a bear, and declare – 'we are not scared', but they then face a series of obstacles, including a river, a snowstorm, and a muddy swamp. At each point, the family realise that they cannot avoid the obstacles, but must 'go through' them. Children can engage with the idea that it is not always possible to avoid something that is difficult. This is particularly relevant during the pandemic, but also for a range of other situations, including changes at home, and struggles at school. We're Going on a Bear Hunt provided an opportunity for toddlers to learn repeating phrases, early phonics and environmental sounds as well as role play, opportunities for outdoor learning, sensory play and lots more in between.



## News from Nursery

Nursery have started on their Spring term topic of Traditional Tales, by exploring the story of The Gingerbread man. They made the Gingerbread man's face using different shapes and learnt the rhyme the Gingerbread said in the story - "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me; I'm the Gingerbread man."

For the next two weeks, Nursery will be exploring the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. To start off all the learning, the children made porridge just like Mummy Bear did in the story. They mixed the porridge with water and added Golden syrup to make it taste "just right." The children said that the porridge was "very yummy!"

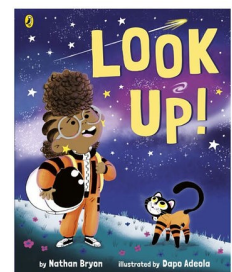
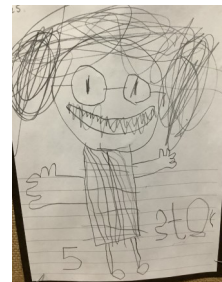
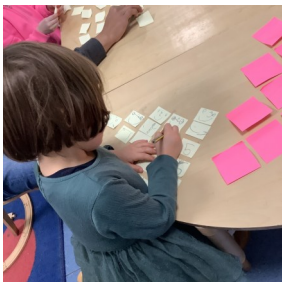


## News from Reception

This week we have been reading the book Look Up! by Nathan Bryon we drew and labelled pictures of the main character, Rocket, inspired by her adventurous spirit we also looked at the life of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel to space.

As part of our space exploration, we've been introducing some exciting new vocabulary. We have learned words like meteor shower, atmosphere, galaxy and gravity. We talked about what each of these words means and used them in the context of the story to help support our understanding. We designed our own posters inviting people to a meteor shower in London.

In maths we have been exploring how to make the number 5. We looked at how numbers can be broken down into smaller parts and then put back together, helping us understand that a "whole" can be made up of different parts. For example, that 5 can be made from 3 and 2, or 4 and 1. We also started thinking about missing parts in number sets, and how to figure out how many are hidden when we know the whole number.





Change your story

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/>

Lots of free resources for families including a virtual library and lots of videos of books being read for you to watch together with your child.



Sharing stories together

[Read now](#)



Cosy book time

[Read now](#)



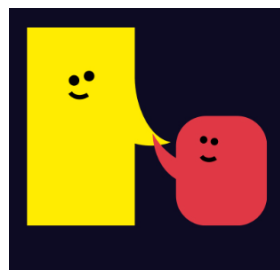
Milestones for one-year-olds

[Read now](#)

Speech and Language UK   
Changing young lives.

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk>

Advice and guidance for families to support their child's development. Resources include a child's progress checker, a guide to the ages and stages of children's language development and a resource library.



B B C

## TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

This website has activities, advice and information about developmental milestones to support families with children's language development.



Bilingual

Tips for parents on introducing children to more than one language from an early age.



Speech, language & SEND

A collection of advice and resources for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

“ Words for Life ”

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk>

Part of the National Literacy Trust this website has more resources for families to support with language development and reading at home.



# 5 Steps for Brain-Building Serve and Return



Center on the Developing Child  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Child-adult relationships that are responsive and attentive—with lots of back and forth interactions—build a strong foundation in a child's brain for all future learning and development. This is called "serve and return," and it takes two to play! Follow these 5 steps to practice serve and return with your child.

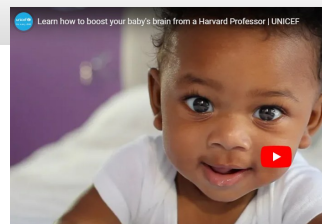
- 1**  
Notice the serve and share the child's focus of attention.
- 2**  
Return the serve by supporting and encouraging.
- 3**  
Give it a name!
- 4**  
Take turns...and wait. Keep the interaction going back and forth.
- 5**  
Practice endings and beginnings.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resource-guides/guide-serve-and-return/>



## Broca's Area

Responsible for language production and comprehension



A study by MIT showed that children aged 4-6 who had experienced more turn-taking in back-and-forth interactions with their caregivers had more activity in the part of the brain called Broca's area, responsible for language production and comprehension. This study showed that the more conversations a child has with their caregiver the greater the amount of activity that occurred in the brain in that important area.

<https://www.unicef.org/parenting/child-development/building-babies-brains-through-play-class>

Did you know that building a child's developing brain can be as simple as playing a game of peek-a-boo?

Watch this TED talk to find out more

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1SXCw0Pi94>



**Bright Start Speech & Language Therapy  
Visits to Stay & Play's and Libraries  
January – February 2025**

North	Central	South
<a href="mailto:brightstartnorth@islington.gov.uk">brightstartnorth@islington.gov.uk</a> 020 727 8441	<a href="mailto:brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk">brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk</a> 020 727 8465	<a href="mailto:brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk">brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk</a> 020 727 4089
<b>Willow Children's Centre</b> Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January (10:15 – 11:45am)	<b>New River Green Children's Centre</b> Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January (9:30 – 11)	<b>Betty Brunker</b> Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January (10:00 – 11:00)
<b>Archway Children's Centre</b> Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> January (10:00 – 11:30am)	<b>Herongate House</b> Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January (10 – 11:30)	<b>Paradise Park Children's Centre</b> Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January (3:00- 4:30)
<b>North Islington Nursery</b> Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> January (3:30- 5:00pm)	<b>Highbury Bandstand (outdoor)</b> Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (10 -11:30)	<b>Moreland Children's Centre</b> Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (9:30-11:00)
<b>Hornsey Road Children's Centre</b> Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January (2:00 – 3:30pm)	<b>The Factory Children's Centre</b> Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> January (3:45 – 5pm)	<b>Bemerton Children's Centre</b> Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January (1:30-3)
<b>Andover Community Centre</b> Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February (10:00 – 11:30am)	<b>Conewood Children's Centre</b> Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February (3:30 – 5pm)	<b>Moreland Children's Centre</b> Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February (9:30-11)
<b>Archway Children's Centre</b> Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February (10:00 – 11:30am)	<b>New River Green Children's Centre</b> Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February 9:30 – 11am)	<b>Golden Lane Children's Centre</b> Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February (3:40-5:00)

**Katie - Speech and Language Therapy Assistant will be visiting these under 1's groups:**

North	Central	South
<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, Hornsey Road Children's Centre</b> Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January (1:30 – 3pm)	<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, New River Green Children's Centre</b> Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> January (1:30 – 3pm)	<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, Paradise Park Children's Centre</b> Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January (9.30 – 11am)
<b>Baby Bounce, Archway Library</b> Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> January (11:00am)	<b>Baby Bounce, Central Library</b> Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February (11am)	<b>Baby Bounce, West Library</b> Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February (11am)
<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, Archway Children's Centre</b> Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February (1:30 – 3pm)	<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, The Factory Children's Centre</b> Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March (1.30 – 3pm)	<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, Bemerton Children's Centre</b> Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February (9.30 – 11am)
<b>Baby Bounce, North Library</b> Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March (11am)	<b>Under 1s Stay and Play, Conewood Children's Centre</b> Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March (9.30 – 11am)	<b>Baby Bounce, Finsbury Library</b> Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March (11am)

Whittington Health NHS Trust

Chair: Baroness Julia Neuberger

Acting Chief Executive: Dr Clare Dollyer



Helping local people live longer healthier lives





<https://www.whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=26956>

Chatterpillars is a communication focused group for children between 18 months and 3 ½ years run by a Children's Centre Practitioner. The Speech and Language Therapist visits the group on a regular basis. The group offers parents specific information on interaction strategies that can help to develop their child's communication skills.



At Chatterpillars, support is offered for parents/ carers to:

- understand more about how speech and language develops in children from 18months to 3 ½ years
- recognise what your child is interested in and what motivates them to learn
- discover when and how your child communicates best with you
- understand the things your child needs to help their communication develop and grow
- use a range of strategies to help accelerate your child's communication development



Speech & Language Therapy