



Spring I	Week I	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
w/b	07/01/25 (4 days)	13/01/25	20/01/25	27/01/25	03/02/25	10/02/25
Special Events	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch New Year	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch Chinese New Year 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan National Storytelling Week — 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan-7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch National Hedgehog day — 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb NSPCC Number Day — 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb Children's Mental Health Week — 3 <sup>rd</sup> — 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch Safer Internet Day — II <sup>th</sup> Feb National pizza day — 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb Random Acts of Kindness Week — I4 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb Valentine's Day — I4 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Focus Text	Owl Babies	Owl Babies	Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp	Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp	Star in the Jar	Star in the Jar
Satellite Text Examples	One Snowy Night The Emperor's Egg	Owl / bird non- fiction books	Dinosaurs love underpants	Dinosaur non-fiction books	The Darkest Dark Zoom, Rocket, Zoom Aliens Love Underpants Astro Cirl	How to Catch a Star Look inside Space
Communication and Language	Settling back in — taking down the Christmas decorations together, discussing the weeks ahead of us, Colour Monster feelings discussions. Discussions surrounding our Christmas break. New Year — what does this mean? What would you like to do this term? Taking turns when speaking and listening.	Owl babies story retelling with props, in small world tray. Ice exploration and new vocabulary.	Discuss the footprints and signs of a dinosaur found in the classroom. How big are they? Are they bigger than your feet? What could it be?  Learning new vocabulary — countries around the world.	Comparing animals in colder countries to those in ours.	Learning new vocabulary — what is space? What are planets? Can we name any of them?	Space and Valentine's Day discussions
Phonics (Adult-led Phonics sessions 10-	J	ı	RWI	Phonics Set I Speed Sounds		
15 mins per day with small group work follow-ups)	Focus sound: `m'	`a´, `s´	`d´, `t´	ì', `n'	p´, `g´	`o´, `c´





		PE games sessions in the hall — Real PE, parachute games, sensory circuits					
Phy: Develo		Funky fingers station: Rainbow writing — 'm' outlines with colouring pencils for mark making / letter formation. Glitter / rice tray for use with fingers.	Funky fingers station: a: Add a leaf to your apple — can you write an `a'? Use the tweezers to feed the baby owls their food. s: Make a `s' with spaghetti — `s' resources on table to copy, chalk `s' on table.	Funky fingers station: d: Dot the 'd' — paint dabbers.  Follow the zig zag coloured track with the car. Can you make your own on paper? t: Fill the tie with t's — letter formation, 't' resources for support. Catch the magnetic fish with the special fishing rod.	Funky fingers station: i: Use the insects to make an `i'.  Paint in zip lock bags, cotton buds and letter formation for sounds learnt so far. n: Fill a notebook with `n' sounds using coloured pencils.	Funky fingers station: p: Put a pattern on the pants. g: Draw a `g´ in the green gloop.	Funky fingers station: o: Put the 'o' beads on the octopus' legs. c: Curl around the caterpillar — pom poms with tweezers on a 'c' outline.
	2-year olds	Join in with songs and rhymes or familiar words from stories.	Enjoy listening to a story with an adult. Pay attention and respond to pictures or words.	Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories. Have favourite books and seek them out, to share with an adult.	Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories.	Develop play around favourite stories. Use props / small world tray when retelling stories.	Use props / small world tray when retelling stories. Make comments about books / stories. Ask questions about books.
Literacy (Adult- led sessions 15 mins per day)	3/4- year olds	Explore new text. Retell simplified story, making up actions. Look at non-fiction owl books — what do we know about owls? Shared information report write about owls.  Daily name tracing / writing	Talk 4 Writing — class story map / retelling. Turn into five sentence story. Orally retell focussing on beginning, middle and end. Children to draw pictures from the story and begin to give meanings to the mark they make.  Daily name tracing / writing	Dinosaur footprints in the classroom / outdoor area, making dinosaur headbands to retell the story as the dinosaurs. Re-telling the story, joining in with rhymes and repetition. Exploring dinosaurs — learning new vocabulary.  Daily name tracing / writing	Using longer sentences to describe. Mark making for our favourite dinosaur – discussions. Initial sound 'd'. Daily name tracing / writing.	Mark making for our own stars in jars, planets and space.  Discuss front cover of book — what can you see? What is an author? What is an illustrator? How do we turn the pages? What's a blurb?  Begin story maps / mountains.  Daily name tracing / writing	Continue story maps / mountains. Oral retelling of the story, using props. Daily name tracing / writing
Maths (Adult- led	2-year olds	Pattern	Counting	Matching	Problem solving up to 5 Comparing quantities Finger rhymes	2 and 3D shapes	Composition





sessions 15 mins per day)	3/4- year olds	Number 3 Subitising	Number 3 Three Little Pigs I:I counting Numerals Triangles	Number 4 I:I counting Numerals Squares/rectangles	Number 4 Composition of 4	Number 5 I:I counting Numerals Pentagon	Number 5 Composition of 5
	pic tW, EAD	PSED — Feelings/understanding emotions, questions for owl babies. Introducing our new friends — settling in, Colour Monster conversations.  UtW — Signs of winter, look at non-fiction books.  EAD — Making snow. Exploring hot and cold.	PSED — Following and understanding rules, ball games  UtW — Exploring ice, observing changes that occur during melting and freezing.  What does salt do to ice?  EAD — Owl craft / painting	PSED — Elaborate play ideas, role play — children's choice  UtW — Identifying cold countries in the world, finding them on a map and globe. What other features can you see?  Oceans, mountains, grassland, desert. Compare to our country. Discussions surrounding day and night, does the Earth move?  Explore non-fiction books.  EAD — Percussion instruments, body percussion.  Yayoi Kusama — dinosaur egg sculptures using clay / dough	PSED — Effortful control/sense of responsibility, board games  UtW — Where is our country on the globe? What planet do we live on? Introduce children to the different planets.  EAD — Arctic animal crafts, white paint with fork for fur.	PSED — Feelings/how others feel, puppets  UtW — Recap cold countries. What animals live in these countries? Explore non-fiction books.  What is above us? What is space? What do astronauts do? Discuss visuals of space. What are stars?  Exploring day and night, light and dark.  EAD — Making lanterns, making shadows (puppets). Jackson Pollock space art. Create number rockets.	PSED — Following and understanding rules, listening games. Turn taking games, compliments. What is a compliment? Ready to introduce child of the day. Valentine's Day discussions — who celebrates? What is the meaning? What can we do?  UtW — Recap animals that live in cold countries. Compare to animals in our country. What is similar? What is different?  4K virtual tour of the moon.  EAD — Finishing Jackson Pollock space art.
Outdoor Foo	Learning cus	Exploring signs of winter — update our weather photos, discuss changes. RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch Winter Walk	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch Winter Walk Making bird feeders	Scavenger hunt in outdoor environment — finding squares and rectangles. RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch materials to decorate! Lunar New Year fireworks chalk art	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch Making our own stars in jars using natural	RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch Outdoor valentines' decorations





The Ark Nursery 2025 Medium Term Plan — Spring I

#### Development Matters 2021 Curriculum Links:

Birth to Three	3 & 4Year olds
Turn towards familiar sounds. They are also startled by loud noises and accurately locate the source of a familiar person's voice, such as their key person or a parent.  Gaze at faces, copying facial expressions and movements like sticking out their tongue. Make eye contact for longer periods.  Walch someone's face as they talk.  Copy what adults do, taking 'turns' in conversations (through babbling) and activities. Try to copy adult speech and lip movements.  En jag singing, music and togs that make sounds.  Recognise and are calimed by a familiar and friendly voice.  Listen and respond to a simple instruction.  Make sounds to get attention in different ways (for example, crying when hungry or unhappy, making gurgling sounds, laughing, cosing or babbling).  Babble, using sounds like baba', inamama'.  Use gestures like waving and pointing to communicate.  Roach or point to something they want while making sounds.  Copy your gestures and words.  Constantly babble and use single words during play.  Use intonation, pitch and changing volume when 'talking'.  Reach or point to something they want while making sounds.  Copy your gestures and words.  Constantly babble and use single words during play.  Use intonation, pitch and changing volume when 'talking'.  Recognise and point to objects if asked about them.  Generally focus on an activity of their own chaice and find it difficult to be directed by an adult.  Listen to other people's talk with interest, but can easily be distracted by other things.  Make themselves understood, and can become frustrated when they cannot.  Start to say how they are feeling, using words as well as actions.  Start to alwelop conversation, often jumping from topic to topic.  Develop pretand play; putting the babley to alsep or driving the car to the shops'.  Use the speech sounds p. b. m. w.  Pronounce: ~Ir/w/w/ ~s/sh/dr/dz/j —f/th ~multi-syllable words such as 'banana' and 'computer'  Listen to simple questions and understand what is happoning, with the help of the pictures.  Understan	<ul> <li>Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.</li> <li>Pay attention to more than one thing at a time, which can be difficult.</li> <li>Use a wider range of vocabulary.</li> <li>Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as "Get your coat and wait at the door". • Understand 'why' questions, like. "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?" • Sing a large repertoire of songs.</li> <li>Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.</li> <li>Develop their communication, but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'.</li> <li>Develop their pronunciation but may have problems saying: - some sounds: r, j, th, ch, and sh - multisyllabic words such as pterodactly, 'Janeaterium' or hippopolamus'.</li> <li>Use longer sentences of four to six words.</li> <li>Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.</li> <li>Start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns.</li> <li>Use talk to organise themselves and their play "Let's go on a bus you sit there [Il be the driver."</li> </ul>





S E D	<ul> <li>Find ways to calm themselves, through being calmed and comforted by their key person.</li> <li>Establish their sense of self.</li> <li>Express preferences and decisions. They also try new things and start establishing their autonomy.</li> <li>Engage with others through gestures, gaze and talk. • Use that engagement to achieve a goal. For example, gesture towards their cup to say they want a drink.</li> <li>Find ways of managing transitions, for example from their parent to their key person.</li> <li>Thrive as they develop self-assurance.</li> <li>Look back as they crawl or walk away from their key person. Look for clues about how to respond to something interesting.</li> <li>Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, because they know their key person is nearby and available. • Feel confident when taken out around the local neighbourhood, and enjoy exploring new places with their key person.</li> <li>Feel strong enough to express a range of emotions.</li> <li>Grow in independence, rejecting help ("me do it"). Sometimes this leads to feelings of frustration and tantrums.</li> <li>Begin to show 'effortful control'. For example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want or push their way to the front.</li> <li>Be increasingly able to talk about and manage their emotions.</li> <li>Notice and ask questions about differences, such as skin colour, types of hair, gender, special needs and disabilities, and so on.</li> <li>Develop friendships with other children.</li> <li>Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories.</li> <li>Are talking about their feelings in more elaborated ways: "I'm sad because" or "I love it when".</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them.</li> <li>Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.</li> <li>Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting.</li> <li>Show more confidence in new social situations.</li> <li>Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas.</li> <li>Find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game, and suggesting other ideas.</li> <li>Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.</li> <li>Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them.</li> <li>Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.</li> <li>Talk with others to solve conflicts.</li> <li>Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.</li> <li>Understand gradually how others might be feeling.</li> <li>Be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g., brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands thoroughly.</li> <li>Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.</li> </ul>
Ph ys i cal	Learn to use the toilet with help, and then independently  Lift their head while lying on their front.  Push their chest up with straight arms.  Roll over: from front to back, then back to front.  Enjoy moving when outdoors and inside.  Sit without support.  Begin to crawl in different ways and directions.  Pull themselves upright and bouncing in preparation for walking.  Reach out for objects as co-ordination develops.  Pass things from one hand to the other. Let go of things and hands them to another person, or drops them.  Gradually gain control of their whole body through continual practice of large movements, such as waving, kicking, rolling, crawling and walking.  Clap and stamp to music.  Fit themselves into spaces, like tunnels, dens and large boxes, and move around in them.  Enjoy starting to kick, throw and catch balls.  Build independently with a range of appropriate resources.  Begin to walk independently — choosing appropriate props to support at first.  Walk, run, jump and climb — and start to use the stairs independently.  Spin, roll and independently use ropes and swings (for example, tyre swings).  Sit on a push-along wheeled toy, use a scooter or ride a tricycle.  Use large and small motor skills to do things independently, for example manage buttons and zips, and pour drinks.  Show an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress.  Start eating independently and learning how to use a knife and fork.  Develop manipulation and control.  Explore different materials and tools.	<ul> <li>Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.</li> <li>Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet.</li> <li>Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues.</li> <li>Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.</li> <li>Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams.</li> <li>Increasingly able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm.</li> <li>Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width.</li> <li>Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel.</li> <li>Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.</li> <li>Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.</li> <li>Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.</li> <li>Show a preference for a dominant hand.</li> <li>Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips.</li> </ul>





L i	<ul> <li>Understand the five key concepts about print: - print has meaning - the names of the different parts of a book - print can have different purposes - page sequencing - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom</li> <li>Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: - spot and suggest rhymes - count or clap syllables in a word - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother</li> <li>Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary,</li> <li>Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy.</li> <li>Write some or all of their name.</li> <li>Write some letters accurately</li> </ul>
Combine objects like stacking blocks and cups. Put objects inside others and take them out again.  Take part in finger rhymes with numbers. React to changes of amount in a group of up to three items. Compare amounts, saying 'lots', 'more' or 'same'. Develop counting-like behaviour, such as making sounds, pointing or saying some numbers in sequence. Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers = '1-2-3-5.' Climb and squeeze themselves into different types of spaces. Build with a range of resources. Complete inset puzzles. Compare sizes, weights etc. using gesture and language - 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'. Notice patterns and arrange things in patterns.	<ul> <li>Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').</li> <li>Recite numbers past 5.</li> <li>Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.</li> <li>Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').</li> <li>Show 'finger numbers' up to 5.</li> <li>Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5.</li> <li>Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.</li> <li>Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5.</li> <li>Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'.</li> <li>Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'.</li> <li>Understand position through words alone — for example, "The bag is under the table," — with no pointing.</li> <li>Describe a familiar route.</li> <li>Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'.</li> <li>Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity. • Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof, etc.</li> <li>Combine shapes to make new ones — an arch, a bigger triangle, etc.</li> <li>Talk about and identifies the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs', etc.</li> <li>Extend and create ABAB patterns — stick, leaf, etc.</li> <li>Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.</li> <li>Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then'</li> </ul>





Repeat actions that have an effect.	<ul> <li>Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Make connections between the features of their family and other families.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Show interest in different occupations. • Explore how things work.</li> </ul>
Notice differences between people.	Plant seeds and care for growing plants.
	<ul> <li>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.</li> </ul>
	Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.
	<ul> <li>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.</li> </ul>
Show attention to sounds and music	Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.
	Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses, etc.
	Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a
	park.
	<ul> <li>Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.</li> </ul>
Join in with songs and rhymes, making some sounds.	<ul> <li>Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.</li> </ul>
Make rhythmical and repetitive sounds.	<ul> <li>Join different materials and explore different textures.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Explore a range of soundmakers and instruments and play them in different ways.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.</li> </ul>
Notice patterns with strong contrasts and be attracted by patterns resembling the human face.	<ul> <li>Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.</li> </ul>
Start to make marks intentionally.	Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.
<ul> <li>Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear, etc.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make.</li> </ul>	Explore colour and colour-mixing.
	• Listen with increased attention to sounds.
• Start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object represents another. For example, a child holds a wooden block to her	<ul> <li>Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.</li> </ul>
	Remember and sing entire songs.
	Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').
	Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.
• Iviake simple models which express their ideas.	Greate their own songs or improvise a song around one they know.
	Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.
	<ul> <li>Explore materials with different properties.</li> <li>Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.</li> <li>Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.</li> <li>Make connections between the features of their family and other families.</li> <li>Notice differences between people.</li> <li>Show attention to sounds and music.</li> <li>Respond emotionally and physically to music when it changes.</li> <li>Move and dance to music.</li> <li>Anticipate phrases and actions in rhymes and songs, like 'Peepo'.</li> <li>Explore their voices and enjoy making sounds.</li> <li>Join in with songs and rhymes, making some sounds.</li> <li>Make rhythmical and repetitive sounds.</li> <li>Explore a range of soundmakers and instruments and play them in different ways.</li> <li>Notice patterns with strong contrasts and be attracted by patterns resembling the human face.</li> <li>Start to make marks intentionally.</li> <li>Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools.</li> <li>Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make.</li> <li>Enjoy and take part in action songs, such as 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.</li> <li>Start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object represents another. For example, a child holds a wooden block to her ear and pretends it's a phone.</li> </ul>