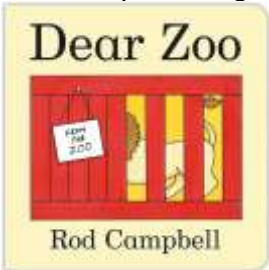
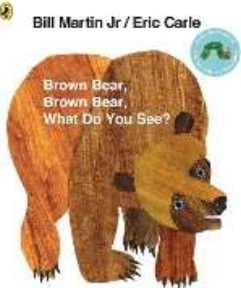


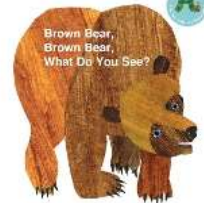
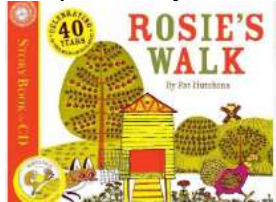

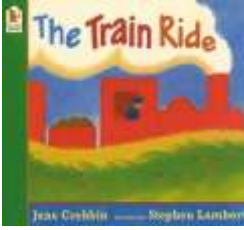




## Core Texts

### Rationale:

- Our EYFS reading curriculum is built around a small number of carefully chosen core stories and rhymes that are revisited and deeply embedded throughout the year. Each half term, we introduce two core texts that children come to know, love, and retell with confidence. These texts have been selected to reflect children’s interests, build story language, and ensure clear progression across Nursery and Reception.
- Because around half of our Reception children do not come through our Nursery provision, we do not leave any learning to chance. The Reception year begins with an Autumn term dedicated to revisiting and re-immersing children in key Nursery texts. This ensures that every child, regardless of their starting point, has equitable access to the shared stories, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge that underpin our wider curriculum.
- This approach not only supports children who are new to our school, but also strengthens learning for those who have encountered the texts before. Repetition is a crucial element of early literacy: it builds confidence, deepens comprehension, supports vocabulary retention, and enables children to engage with familiar stories at an increasingly sophisticated level.
- Alongside these core texts, additional books are used throughout the year to strengthen topic learning, support seasonal themes, and enrich children’s play. These supplementary texts can be found within our Schema Texts collection and the 2-Year Progressive PLODs, ensuring that wider learning is consistently supported and enhanced through high-quality literature.

Term	Nursery Core Texts	Reception Core Texts	
Autumn 1	<p><b>Dear Zoo</b> <i>Animals, predicting, repetition, story sequencing</i></p>  <p><b>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You Hear?</b> <i>Colours, animals, rhythm and repetition, observation</i></p> 	<p><b>Revisit:</b> <b>The Hungry Caterpillar</b> <i>Deeper comprehension, inference, retelling in more detail</i></p>  <p><b>Jasper's Beanstalk</b> <i>Extended vocabulary, predicting outcomes, sequencing with more precision</i></p> 	<p><b>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You Hear?</b> <i>Retell with confidence, introduce adjectives and descriptive language</i></p>  <p><b>Rosie's Walk</b> <i>Explore story patterns, sequencing independently, adding own ideas</i></p> 

<p><b>Autumn 2</b></p>	<p><b>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</b>  <i>Story sequencing, movement, adventurous journeys, vocabulary</i>  <i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i>  Michael Rosen   Helen Oxenbury</p>  <p><b>Monkey Puzzle</b>  <i>Problem-solving, story comprehension, emotions, relationships</i></p> 	<p><b>Revisit:</b>  <b>Peace at Last</b>  <i>Discuss character feelings, explore alternative endings</i></p>  <p><b>The Train Ride</b>  <i>Retell using full sentences, compare with personal experiences</i></p> 	<p><b>Owl Babies</b>  <i>Infer emotions, compare feelings, predict behaviour</i></p>  <p><b>Oi Frog</b>  <i>Experiment with own rhymes, explain humour, categorisation skills</i></p> 
<p><b>Spring 1</b></p>	<p><b>Peace at Last</b>  <i>Daily routines, sequencing, family life, retelling</i></p>  <p><b>Owl Babies</b>  <i>Emotions, reassurance, narrative structure, prediction</i></p> 	<p><b>Room on the Broom</b>  <i>Friendship, problem-solving, narrative structure, sequencing, character motivations</i></p>  <p><b>Six Dinner Sid</b>  <i>Patterns, routines, problem-solving, humour, inference</i></p> 	

Spring 2

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

Counting, days of the week, life cycles, sequencing, vocabulary



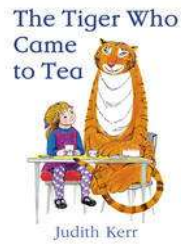
**Jasper's Beanstalk**

Growth and change, story structure, days of the week,



**The Tiger Who Came to Tea**

Story sequencing, imagination, problem-solving, comprehension



**Not Now, Bernard**

Family dynamics, emotions, story comprehension, discussion



Summer 1

**The Very Busy Spider**

Life cycles, animal sounds, repeated phrases, sequencing



**Oi Frog!**

Rhyming, sounds, humour, categorisation



**Handa's Surprise**

Cultures, counting, sequencing, observation, prediction



**On the Way Home**

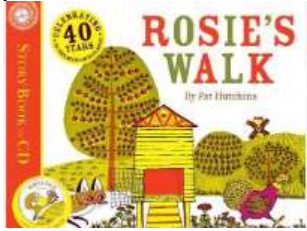
Journeys, sequencing, prediction, empathy



**Summer  
2**

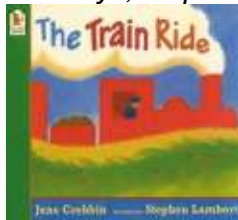
***Rosie's Walk***

*Direction, spatial awareness, story sequencing, prediction*



***The Train Ride***

*Journeys, sequencing, vocabulary, observation*



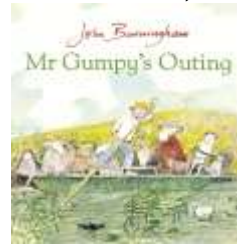
***Whatever Next!***

*Adventure, sequencing, imagination, prediction*



***Mr Gumpy's Outing***

*Collaboration, sequencing, humour, retelling*



## Core Rhymes

### Rationale:

*“Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.” - Mem Fox, Reading Magic*

- Our approach equips children with a strong knowledge of rhyme and ensures they develop a broad repertoire by the time they leave the EYFS. Nursery children focus on a core set of rhymes, repeated until they can recall and perform them confidently, building language, rhythm, and confidence.
- To ensure no child is left behind, Reception begins the Autumn term by revisiting key Nursery rhymes. This gives all children, especially those who did not attend our Nursery, equitable access to the shared repertoire, while also reinforcing learning for children already familiar with the rhymes.

Term	Nursery Core Rhymes	Reception Core Rhymes
<b>Autumn 1</b>	Baa Baa Black Sheep Humpty Dumpty Grand Old Duke of York	Revisit Nursery rhymes
<b>Autumn 2</b>	Row Row Row Your Boat 3 Blind Mice Wind the Bobbin Up	Revisit Nursery rhymes
<b>Spring 1</b>	Five Little Ducks Jack and Jill Hickory Dickory Dock	Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes The Okey Cokey
<b>Spring 2</b>	Little Bo-Peep Pat-a-Cake Incy Wincy Spider	Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary Bingo
<b>Summer 1</b>	Revisit full repertoire	London Bridge is Falling Down Miss Polly had a Dolly

<b>Summer 2</b>	Revisit full repertoire	Revisit full repertoire
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