English Curriculum

English Overview and Rationale

Buds

Our English curriculum aims to raise aspiration and close disadvantage gaps by promoting high standards of language and literacy for every child. Rooted in our values—**Together We Learn, Grow and Achieve**—we equip pupils with a strong command of both spoken and written language and nurture a love of literature through reading for pleasure. In our community, where many children have limited early language experiences, these skills are vital. They empower pupils to learn confidently, grow in knowledge and independence, and achieve the foundations needed to participate fully and equally in society.

DRAWING CLUB

Early Years Drawing Club provides a structured and engaging approach to supporting children's development in communication, language, and early writing.

During each session, children listen to a carefully selected, age-appropriate story that promotes attention, understanding and recall. Following the story, children draw characters or settings, using their own ideas to represent what they have heard. This supports the development of comprehension, expressive language, imagination and early narrative skills.

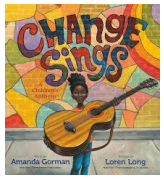
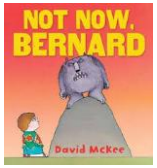
Each week, children are introduced to a small set of ambitious, meaningful vocabulary. These words are taught alongside simple, memorable actions to reinforce children's understanding and support their ability to use the vocabulary in context when speaking or describing their drawings.

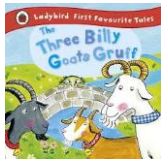
Children also create their own "magic codes," which may include colours, marks, symbols, or early attempts at writing. These purposeful marks encourage children to communicate their ideas, demonstrate understanding and begin to apply early phonetic knowledge which are key foundations of the Literacy Early Learning Goals. Drawing Club also follows the natural developmental stages set out in statutory guidance. Children need time to build fine motor control, hand strength, confidence with tools, and early mark-making skills before they are ready for formal letter formation or conventional spelling. For this reason, activities give children plenty of chances to explore different materials, practise-controlled movements, and enjoy the physical process of drawing and making marks in a relaxed, supportive way. Through Drawing Club, children are supported to express themselves, build a wider vocabulary, strengthen early motor and mark-making skills, and take confident early steps towards independent writing.

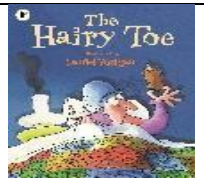
WHOLE SCHOOL TEXTS

Reading is at the heart of our EYFS provision and supports children's language, communication, and early literacy development. Through daily story times, shared reading, rhymes, and songs, children develop a love of books and begin to build the foundations for reading. Children also engage with our carefully selected whole-school texts, which are explored across the school and linked to key themes, values, celebrations, and wider learning experiences. These shared texts create opportunities for meaningful discussions, vocabulary development, comprehension, and a deeper understanding of the world around

them. By revisiting and responding to these texts through play, talk, art, and writing, children develop confidence as readers while fostering curiosity, imagination, empathy, and a lifelong enjoyment of books.

AUTUMN ONE		
TEXT/ANIMATION	**RATIONALE**	**VOCABULARY**
Whole School Text: Change Sings by Amanda Gorman 	*Change Sings* was chosen as a whole school text. In EYFS, It helps children with communication and language because the story is rhythmic and repetitive. It teaches children that everyone matters and can make a positive difference, helping them build confidence and kindness. The pictures support understanding too, helping children talk about what they see and notice differences, feelings, and community.	HARMONY COMMUNITY COURAGE KINDNESS HOPE UNITY INSPIRE
Story: Not Now, Bernard by David McKee 	Reading *Not Now, Bernard* in EYFS helps children develop early language by talking about what is happening in the story. It supports listening and understanding because the story is simple and easy to	GOBBLE DESTROY IGNORE FIERCESOME CHOMP LEAKING SPLATTER

	follow. Children can also learn about feelings by thinking about how Bernard feels when he is ignored. The illustrations support understanding and help build early reading skills, for children who cannot yet read the words.	ASTONISHED
Traditional Tale: The Three Billy Goats 	Reading *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* in EYFS is useful because it is simple, repetitive, and easy for young children to understand. It supports early reading skills by helping children learn how stories are structured (beginning, middle, end) and by building their vocabulary. The story is good for role play and imagination, as children can act it out with masks, puppets, or in small-world play.	LUSCIOUS TRIPLE CREAKY FEARLESS GRUESOME SUDDENLY DETERMINED BAMBOOZLE
Animation: Wacky Races	Watching and discussing *Wacky Races* helps EYFS children develop their speaking and listening skills through talking about the characters and what happens in the story. The fun and colourful races encourage	ACCELERATE BRAKING HAZARD STEERING CHUCKLE DEMOLISH OVERTAKE

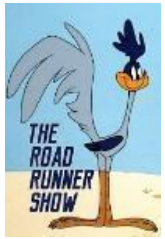
	imagination, role play and creative activities. It also gives children opportunities to learn about taking turns, teamwork, friendship and trying their best.	TRANSPORT
Story: The Hairy Toe by Daniel Postgate 	*The Hairy Toe* was chosen to develop children's listening, speaking, and early literacy skills through a highly engaging repetitive tale. The story encourages participation, prediction, vocabulary development, and retelling, while also providing opportunities to explore emotions, creativity, and imaginative play.	WINDY FURRY ANCIENT FEARFUL UNDERCOVER CREEP DISTANT SWIRLING
Traditional Tale: Jack and the Beanstalk 	*Jack and the Beanstalk* is a popular traditional tale that helps children develop their listening, speaking, and early literacy skills. The story's repeated phrases and clear sequence of events make it easy for children to retell. The story also provides opportunities for learning about growing plants, measuring	CLAMBERING BOOMING DESCENDING GLITTERING GINORMOUS SHOCKING SLINKING CHOPPING

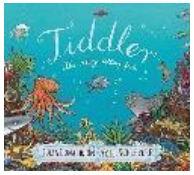
	height, counting, and creative role play.	
AUTUMN TWO		
TEXT/ ANIMATION	**RATIONALE**	**VOCABULARY**
Story: The Way Back Home Story by Oliver Jeffers 	*The Way Back Home* is a fun and imaginative story that supports learning across the EYFS curriculum. The book encourages children to develop their speaking and listening skills through discussion, prediction, and retelling the story. The themes of friendship, kindness, helping others, and problem-solving support children's personal, social, and emotional development. The story's engaging illustrations inspire creativity through role play, drawing, and storytelling activities. It also helps to develop early literacy skills by encouraging a love of reading and building vocabulary.	ASTRONAUT ALIEN STRANDED EXPLORE RESCUE ADVENTURE COOPERATION FRIENDSHIP

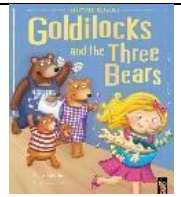
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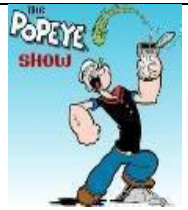
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Traditional Tale: The Gingerbread Man Traditional Tale 	*The Gingerbread Man* was chosen because it is a fun and engaging traditional story that encourages children to join in with repeated phrases and develop their speaking and listening skills. The simple story structure helps children understand sequencing, characters, and events. The story supports early literacy by developing vocabulary, prediction, recall, and comprehension. It also provides opportunities for role-play, storytelling, and discussion about choices and consequences.	LEAP ACCELERATE PURSUE BLOCK CUNNING SOGGY MOCKING DISAPPOINTED
Animation: Roadrunner 	Watching *Road Runner* supports children's learning and development in EYFS by encouraging them to talk about what they see, listen to others' ideas, and learn new vocabulary. The cartoon helps children develop prediction and storytelling skills as they discuss what might happen next and retell events. It also encourages thinking and problem-solving by exploring the characters' actions	SPEEDY ZOOMING ACCIDENT SLINKING AMBUSH ESCAPE PATIENT BOULDER

	and choices.Children can use their imagination and express their ideas while developing communication, literacy, and social skills.	
Story: Tiddler by Julia Donaldson 	*Tiddler* is a fun and engaging story that helps children develop a love of reading. The rhyming text and repeated phrases support language development, listening skills, and vocabulary growth. Children can practise important literacy skills by predicting what might happen next, retelling the story, and creating their own stories. The underwater setting also helps children learn about sea creatures and habitats through play and exploration. *Tiddler* supports communication, literacy, creativity, and understanding of the world, making it an excellent text for EYFS learning.	TRAIPSING DAYDREAMING TARDY ABANDONED REUNITED CELEBRATING
Traditional Tale: Goldilocks	*Goldilocks and the Three Bears* is a popular traditional story that	DEMOLISHED GUZZLE

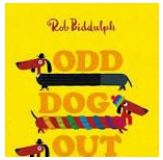
	helps children develop their listening, speaking, and early reading skills. The repeated phrases encourage children to join in and remember key parts of the story. It helps children learn about sequencing events, comparing sizes (big, medium, small), and talking about feelings and behaviour. The story also inspires imaginative play, role play, and creative activities, supporting learning across the EYFS curriculum.	SLUMBER PIPING HOT FROSTY UNEVEN PERFECT CRAMPED
Animation: The Snowman by Raymond Briggs 	*The Snowman* is a perfect film for EYFS children because it encourages talking, listening, and storytelling. As there are very few words, children can use their imagination to describe what is happening, predict events, and share their ideas. The story helps children explore feelings such as friendship, happiness, and sadness. It also links to learning about winter and seasonal changes. The film inspires creative activities	ICE WINTER MELT FREEZE TOGETHER

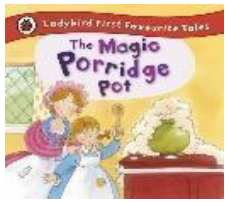
	including art, music, role play, and movement.	
Animation: Pop Eye 	Watching *Popeye* in EYFS can support children's learning because it is a simple and engaging cartoon that helps develop several areas of development. It supports communication and language as children listen to repeated phrases, learn new words, and retell stories. It also helps personal, social and emotional development by showing themes like helping others, being brave, and making good choices.. It also supports understanding the world by helping children think about what is real and what is imaginary, and expressive arts and design through role play, drawing, and storytelling based on the characters.	EVERY DAY: GULP DOWN MUSCULAR WEAKNESS CRUSH EXPLODE RAPID SUPERHUMAN DREADFUL

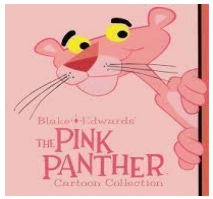
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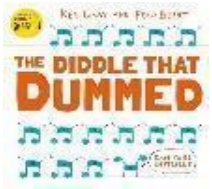
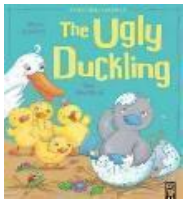
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SPRING ONE		
TEXT / ANIMATION	**RATIONALE**	**VOCABULARY**
Whole School Text : Odd Dog Out by Rob Biddolf 	*Odd Dog Out* was chosen as it helps children understand that everyone is different and that being unique is something to celebrate. The story encourages children to talk about feelings, friendships, and belonging. It supports language development through discussion and storytelling, while the colourful illustrations engage children's imagination and creativity. The book also promotes kindness, acceptance, and respect for others, helping to build a positive and inclusive classroom environment.	SIMILAR DIFFERENT COMPARE CONTRAST BELONG EXCLUDE REASON
Story: Superworm by Julia Donalson 	Reading Superworm helps children develop their language and literacy skills through rhyme, repetition, and storytelling. The story encourages listening, speaking, and joining in with familiar phrases. It also teaches important values such as	ZOOMING SUPERHUMAN TIMID HEROIC CALAMITY WRIGGLING INDESTRUCTIBLE ALTER

	friendship, kindness, and helping others. Children can discuss the characters' feelings and how they work together to solve problems. The book inspires imaginative play, creative activities, and learning about minibeasts.	
Traditional Tale: The Magic Porridge Pot 	*The Magic Porridge Pot* was chosen because it is simple, repetitive, and easy for young children to understand. It supports language development as children hear and repeat key phrases, which helps build vocabulary and confidence in speaking. The story also supports early reading skills because it has a clear beginning, middle, and end, making it easier for children to retell and sequence events. It links to maths when the porridge keeps growing and overflowing, helping children understand ideas like "more," "too much," and counting. The story also supports personal and social development by helping children	ENCHANTED CONVERSATION ENDLESS DESPAIR CEASE COVERED STEAMING GLOOPY

	think about what happens when instructions are not followed and how problems can be solved.	
Animation: Pink Panther 	Watching *The Pink Panther* in EYFS supports children's learning because it is a mainly non-verbal cartoon that is easy for young children to understand. It helps them develop communication and language skills by encouraging them to talk about what they see, retell simple stories, and make predictions. It also supports personal, social and emotional development as children notice different emotions and discuss character behaviour. The visual storytelling helps with early literacy skills like sequencing events, and it encourages creativity through role play and imaginative responses.	CLUMSY SPLODGE COMICAL ACTIVE OBLIVIOUS REVEAL FURIOUS STAMP
Story: The Diddle that Dummed by Kes Gray	Reading *Diddle Diddle Dumpling* in EYFS helps children develop early language and literacy skills through its simple, repetitive, and rhythmic structure. The	SCRIBE EXCEPTIONAL HALT ROARED LEAPED

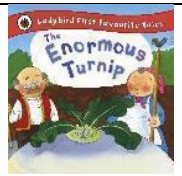
	rhyme supports phonological awareness by helping children hear patterns in words, while also introducing new vocabulary in an engaging and memorable way. It encourages children to listen carefully, join in with repeated phrases, and build their confidence in speaking. Overall, it promotes early reading skills and helps children enjoy and engage with language.	PONDERED EUREKA SEARCHING
Traditional Tale: The Ugly Duckling 	*The Ugly Duckling* was chosen because it supports children's learning in simple, meaningful ways. It helps children understand feelings like sadness, loneliness, and happiness, and encourages them to think about being kind and accepting differences in others. It also supports language development by introducing new words and helping children retell the story in order. The story also links to understanding the world, such as animals and growing up, and	LONELY REJECTED ASHAMED CURIOUS FRIGHTENED HATCH MIGRATE

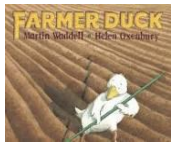
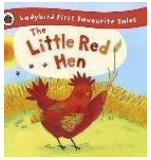
	can be used in creative activities like role play and drawing.	
SPRING TWO		
TEXT / ANIMATION	**RATIONALE**	**VOCABULARY**
Story: Stuck by Oliver Jeffers 	*Stuck* is a fun and engaging story that helps children develop their listening, attention, and language skills. The repetitive events encourage children to join in, make predictions, and talk about what might happen next. The story promotes problem-solving and critical thinking as children discuss different ways to help the character. It also supports personal, social, and emotional development by exploring feelings such as frustration and determination. The book provides opportunities for creative activities, storytelling, counting, sequencing, and role play.	LAUNCHED CLING GATHERED RESCUE PRESUME COMMANDEER DEMOLISH INQUISITIVE

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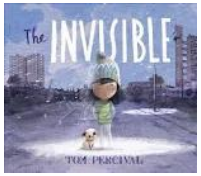
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Traditional Tale: The Enormous Turnip 	*The Enormous Turnip* is a good choice for EYFS because it has repetitive language that encourages children to join in and develop their speaking, listening, and early reading skills. The story teaches the importance of teamwork, helping others, and not giving up. It also links to learning about plants, growing, and healthy foods. Children can enjoy retelling the story, acting it out, and exploring mathematical concepts such as size and counting. The simple, engaging storyline helps build confidence, language, and a love of reading.	RESISTANCE STRUGGLE FAMISHED EMERGING FORCEFUL BECKON COLOSSAL VICTORIOUS
Animation: The Magic Roundabout 	*The Magic Roundabout* was chosen to support communication and language development, encourage discussion about characters' feelings and actions, and foster imaginative thinking. The programme provides opportunities for children to develop listening skills, extend vocabulary, and engage in creative follow-up activities	DRUMMING SHY ARRIVE PACING GREETING AGITATED IN A HUFF RACING

	linked to EYFS learning outcomes.	
Story: Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell 	*Farmer Duck* is a popular picture book that helps children develop their language, listening, and understanding skills. The repetitive text encourages children to join in and build confidence with speaking and storytelling. The story also helps children explore important themes such as kindness, fairness, teamwork, and caring for others. The farm setting introduces children to animals and life on a farm, supporting their understanding of the world. The engaging illustrations inspire discussion, role-play, and creative activities, helping to foster a love of books and reading.	BONE IDLE EXHAUSTED EJECT STEALTHY STUNNED HOT ON THE HEELS CULTIVATE BIG CHEESE
Traditional Tale: Little Red Hen 	*The Little Red Hen* is a useful story for EYFS because it has repeated phrases that encourage children to join in, helping to develop listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills. The story teaches important values such as	BAKING INGREDIENTS CONCOCTING RISING UNHELPFUL JUST DESSERTS STUFFING

	helping others, working together, and perseverance. It also supports children's understanding of story structure through retelling and sequencing activities. The theme of making bread provides opportunities for hands-on learning, such as baking and exploring where food comes from, linking to several areas of the EYFS curriculum.	COLLABORATING

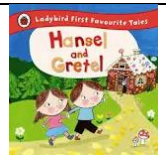
SUMMER ONE		
TEXT / ANIMATION	**RATIONALE**	**VOCABULARY**
Whole School Text: The Invisible by Tom Percival 	*The Invisible* was chosen to help children understand feelings, friendship, kindness, and inclusion. The story encourages children to talk about emotions, develop empathy, and recognise that everyone should feel valued and included. It supports	DIVERSITY POVERTY COMMUNITY INCLUSION WORRIED CONFIDENT INVISIBLE

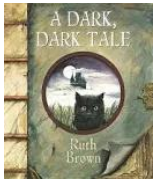
	communication and language skills through discussion and helps children develop their understanding of the world and positive relationships with others.	
Story: The Tiger Who Came to tea by Judith Kerr 	*The Tiger Who Came to Tea was chosen because* it is an engaging story that helps children develop a love of reading. The familiar setting and repetitive language support listening, speaking, and understanding skills. The story encourages children to use their imagination, talk about characters and events, retell the story, and learn new vocabulary. It also provides opportunities for role play, creative activities, counting, and discussions about feelings, animals, and everyday experiences, supporting learning across the EYFS curriculum.	SLURPING FEAST CAUTIOUS SUDDENLY TOTAL CROUCH FAREWELL ARRIVE

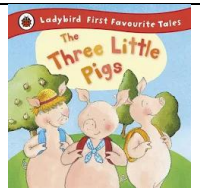
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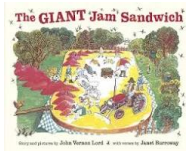
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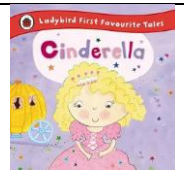
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Traditional Tale: Hansel and Gretel		*Hansel and Gretel* helps children develop their listening, speaking, and early reading skills. The story has memorable characters and a clear sequence of events, making it easy for children to retell and discuss. It encourages imagination through role play and creative activities, while also exploring themes such as bravery, problem-solving, and making safe choices. The story provides opportunities for learning across the EYFS areas, including Communication and Language, Literacy, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Expressive Arts and Design.	MYSTERIOUS TEMPTING DELICIOUS CLEVER BRAVE GREEDY CRUEL ESCAPE
Animation: Mr Benn		Watching *Mr Benn* in EYFS is beneficial because it supports several areas of early development in a simple and engaging way. The programme has a clear and repetitive story structure, which helps children understand how stories are built and supports early literacy skills. It also develops communication	LIBERATE CAPTURE HABITAT TEARFUL PROTECT SHELTER RELEASE

	and language as children are introduced to new vocabulary linked to different roles, settings, and adventures, which can be reinforced through discussion with adults. In addition, it supports personal, social and emotional development by showing themes such as trying new experiences, making choices, and building confidence in unfamiliar situations.	
Story: A Dark Dark Tale by Ruth Brown  	Reading *A Dark, Dark Tale* in EYFS is valuable because it supports children's communication and language development through its repetitive phrases, which help them join in and build vocabulary. It also promotes early literacy skills by helping children understand story structure and encouraging prediction and recall. The story supports understanding of the world as children explore different settings such as a forest, house, and room, while also reinforcing positional language	DREARY ISOLATED PITCH BLACK SHOCKED TERRIFIED SHINING FORLORN MISTY

	like "in" and "inside." In addition, it helps children talk about feelings such as curiosity and mild suspense in a safe way, and encourages creativity through role play and storytelling activities.	
Traditional Tale: The Three Little Pigs 	*The Three Little Pigs* was chosen because it supports children's language, literacy, and understanding through a simple and engaging story. It helps develop speaking and listening skills as children join in with repeated phrases and learn new vocabulary. The clear structure of the story also supports early reading development by helping children understand the beginning, middle, and end of a narrative. In addition, it encourages thinking skills as children discuss the choices the characters make and the consequences of those choices.	CONSTRUCT STURDY FLIMSY TAUNTING OBLITERATE SCARPER CELEBRATE EXHALE
Story: The Night Pirates by Peter Harris	Reading *The Night Pirates* in EYFS supports children's language development and early literacy through an engaging,	MURKY ASCEND COURAGEOUS CREEPING

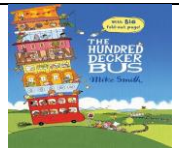
	adventurous story that captures imagination and attention. The repeated phrases and rhythmic language help children join in, build vocabulary, and develop listening skills. It also encourages discussion about characters, feelings, and simple story structure, supporting comprehension. The themes of adventure, teamwork, and bravery link well to role play and creative activities, helping children make connections between stories and their own experiences.	MONSTROUS PUZZLING REQUEST VOYAGING
SUMMER TWO		
TEXT / ANIMATION	**RATIONALE**	**VOCABULARY**
Story: The Giant Jam Sandwich by John Vernon 	*The Giant Jam Sandwich* was chosen as it supports children's language development through its rich, repetitive and predictable story structure, which helps build early listening skills and confidence with storytelling. The humorous and imaginative plot engages young learners,	BOILING ESCAPE CACOPHONY DISCUSSION GINORMOUS KNEADING EXPAND

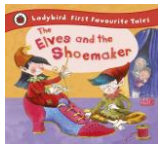
	encouraging discussion, prediction, and retelling, while also introducing new vocabulary in a meaningful context. Its clear sequence of events supports early understanding of story structure, helping children begin to recognise beginnings, middles, and ends in narratives.	HOVERING
Traditional Tale: Cinderella 	Reading *Cinderella* in EYFS supports children's early language and literacy development through rich storytelling, repetitive structure, and memorable characters. The story helps build vocabulary, comprehension, and listening skills, while also encouraging discussion about feelings, fairness, and kindness. It links well to role-play and imaginative play, allowing children to retell and sequence events, which supports early narrative skills.	MISERABLE CRUEL ELEGANT MAGICAL WICKED GENEROUS ENCHANTED TRANSFORMED

English Curriculum

English Overview and Rationale

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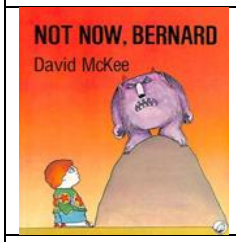
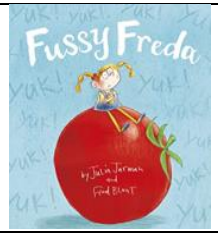
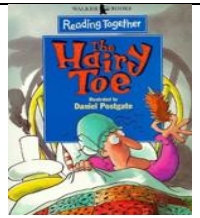
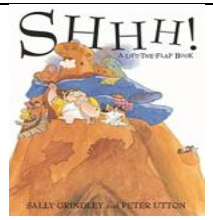
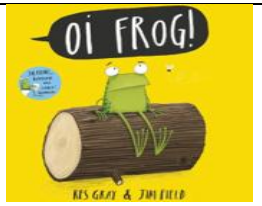
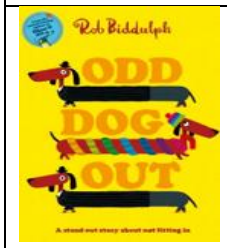
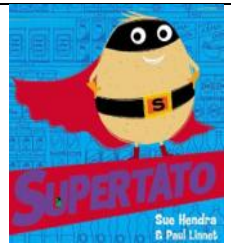
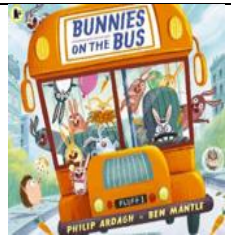
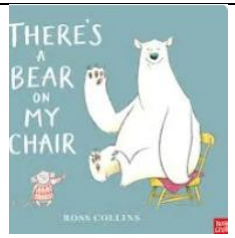
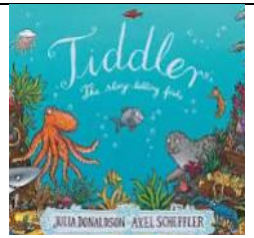
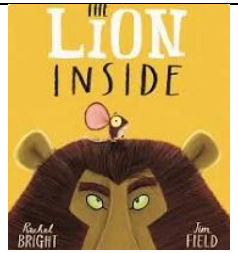
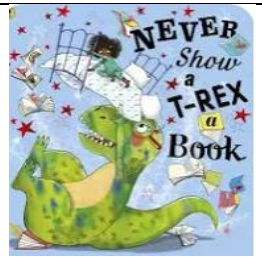
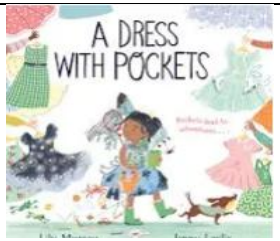
Animation: Batfink 	Watching *Batfink* in EYFS can support children's learning through engaging, simple storytelling and clear good-versus-evil themes. The short episodes and repetitive structure help young children follow a narrative and build attention and listening skills. It can also encourage discussion about characters, actions, and consequences, supporting early language development and understanding of right and wrong.	SPARK SIDEKICK RAPID IDLE NAPPING RESCUE THRILLING HURDLE
Story: One Hundred Decker Bus by Mike Smith 	The Hundred Decker Bus was chosen as it supports children's language development, imagination, and early mathematical thinking. The repetitive structure and cumulative story help young learners build vocabulary, anticipate patterns, and join in with retelling. The detailed illustrations encourage discussion, observation skills, and storytelling, while the	NAVIGATE INFLATE EXTENSION UNCERTAINTY CREW EXPANDING MECHANICAL ASCENDING

	imaginative concept of a growing bus sparks curiosity and creative thinking. It also provides opportunities for counting, sequencing, and exploring ideas about journeys and transport in a fun, engaging way.	
Traditional Tale: The Elves and the Shoemaker 	Reading *The Elves and the Shoemaker* in EYFS supports early language development, listening skills, and understanding of simple story structure. The repetitive and predictable narrative helps children build confidence in storytelling and encourages them to join in with familiar phrases. It also introduces key themes such as kindness, helping others, and gratitude, which support personal, social and emotional development. The story provides opportunities for discussion, vocabulary building, and imaginative play linked to characters and events.	CRAFTSMANSHIP GRATEFUL GENEROUS MYSTERIOUS MIDNIGHT SURPRISE HARDWORKING

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English Overview and Rationale

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FAVOURITE FIVE				
AUTUMN				
				
SPRING				
				
SUMMER				
				

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