



# Acorns Newsletter

October 6th 2023



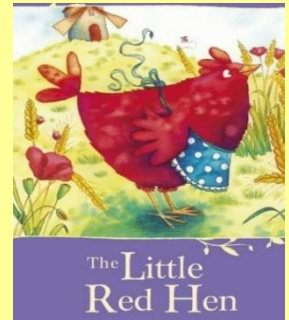
## The Little Red Hen

This week our learning has been based around the tale of The Little Red Hen. The children enjoyed listening to, and joining in with, the storytelling and acting out the roles of the animals. This story also inspired some wonderful creative work in the Art Studio (have a look at the photos in our learning gallery!)

In the story, the Little Red Hen finds a grain of wheat, plants it, harvests it, takes it to the mill to grind it to flour and lastly bakes some bread. We talked about Harvest time and the importance farmers play in our lives. We also encouraged the children to think about and name the animals that live on a farm.

Please follow the link below to enjoy a video retelling of this story. You might like to watch it with your child at home, encouraging them to join in with the story words.

[The Little Red Hen](#)



## Books we shared this week

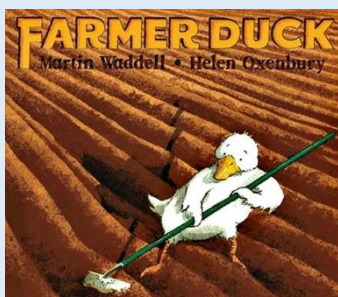
We shared four books this week during Huddle Time. You can find video retellings of these books on YouTube if you wish to enjoy them with your child at home.

**The Colour Monster Goes to School** – another super book exploring feelings in a visual way. This book considers the feelings we have when starting school....very appropriate for this time of the year.

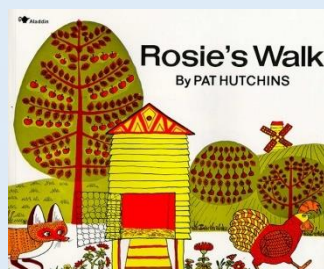
**Farmer Duck** – a tale of a hard-working duck and a very lazy farmer and how the animals work together as a team to teach the farmer a lesson and get the job done.

**A Squash and a Squeeze** – a super farmyard rhyming tale with a funny ending by the author of 'The Gruffalo'.

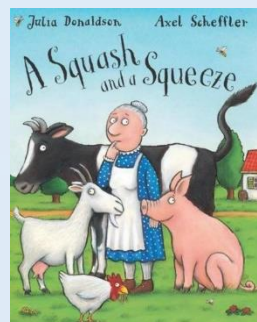
**Rosie's Walk** – A wonderful visual story, told with pictures and very few words. The children have great fun noticing and predicting the story events as Rosie takes a walk around the farm.



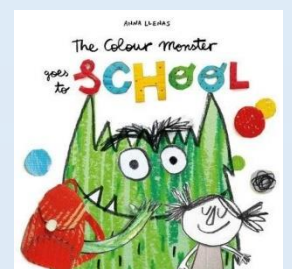
'Farmer Duck' by Martin Waddell



'Rosie's Walk' by Pat Hutchins.



'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson.



'The Colour Monster Goes to School' by Anna Llenas.

# Songs we have sung this week

As we were enjoying the theme of The Little Red Hen who lives on a farm, we sang an old favourite. This song helped the children to categorise their language as they recalled a series of farm animals. Please tap on the link below to enjoy a super version of this song with your child at home:

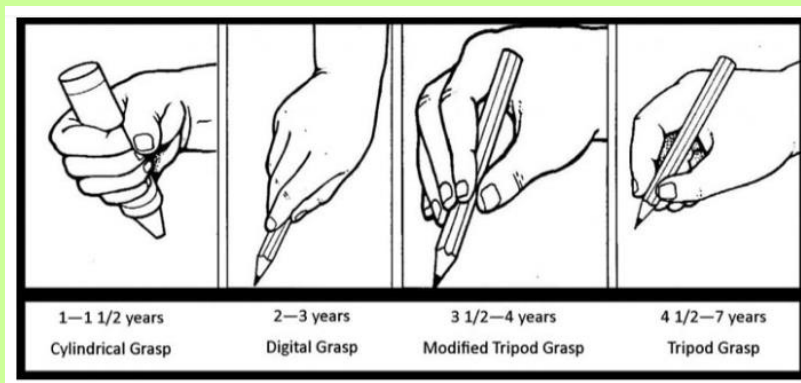


[Old MacDonald Had a Farm](#)

## Learning to write – holding a pencil

It is so exciting to see your children begin their journey of learning to write. This is a challenging skill for young children as it requires a lot of skills all at once.

In school we are encouraging your child to develop a comfortable and efficient pencil grip. The image below shows the developmental stages children typically go through as their learn to hold a mark-maker.



The most efficient grip for writing is the 'Tripod Grasp' where the pencil is held between the thumb and the first two fingers. Children will achieve this grip when they are physically ready. In school we have a little exercise to help your child find the fingers they need to use. We pretend that our thumb and first two fingers are a 'snappy crocodile', tucking the ring and little finger away, and snapping them together in the air. Please see the demonstration video on our 'Reception Learning Prompts' page by clicking this link:

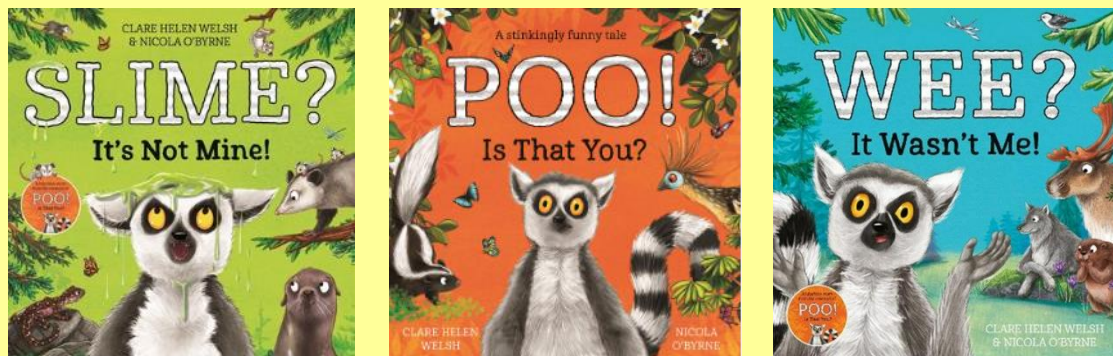
[Holding a pencil with my Snappy Crocodile Fingers](#)





# A visiting author!

This week we had a special visit from children's author (and former Reception teacher) Clare Helen Welsh. Clare certainly knew how to capture the interest of the children with her books 'Pool! Is that you?', 'Slime? It's Not Mine!' and 'Wee? It Wasn't Me!'



The children were excited to meet Lenny the Lemur who came bottom-first out of his suitcase all the way from Madagascar!

We then watched as Clare showed us how to draw Lenny the Lemur. It was so lovely to see the absolute concentration on the children's faces as they watched her carefully explain how she used her pencil to create shapes and textures. The children produced some wonderful drawings of Lenny of their own.



We look forward to seeing Clare again in December when she returns to share another of her wonderful books with the children. We will keep you posted!



# Our learning gallery

Creating collages of 'The Little Red Hen', inspired by crafts created by other artists, the children carefully chose the materials they wished to use.



Developing fine motor skills as they trace an image and carefully paint a line drawing of The Little Red Hen.



Storytelling with Mrs Russell. The children carefully followed the story map to remember and tell the events of the story in the right order.





# Learning through play

We love the children's creative pattern making both with the mini pegs and using the big board.



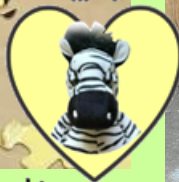
Architects at work!

Hop aboard the train, take a seat on board a plane, have a nap in the bedroom...a wonderful range of imaginative and collaborative ideas in the block play this week. Lovely to see the children forming friendships and working together.



# Learning through play

A special story time moment captured in the play. Lovely to watch as the girls told their own story using the pictures and carefully turned each page.

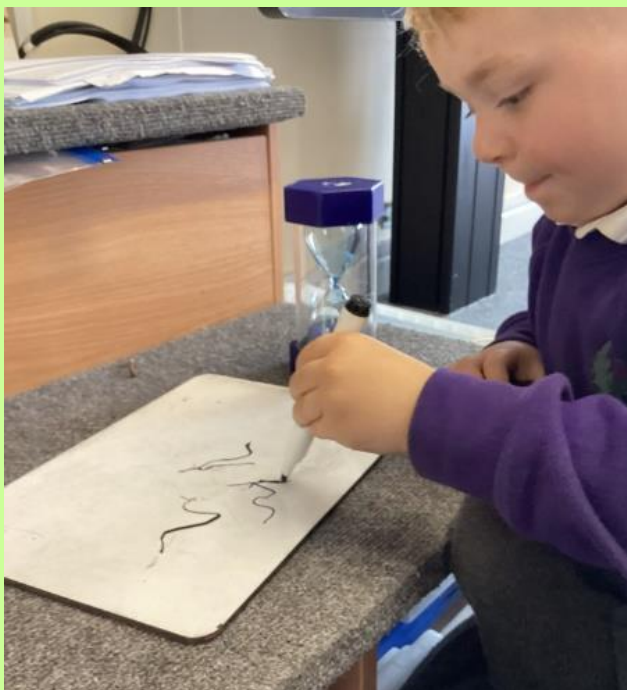


We share

We love to see the children work and play together to solve problems and enjoy team games. Mr Wobble and Ziggy were proud of their kindness and sharing.



We are kind and gentle



Super Snappy Crocodile Fingers spotted in the play! Look at the children's wonderful early mark-making.

