



COA Curriculum News Spring 2017

The second half of the Spring Term has been very busy and filled with fantastic learning opportunities across the curriculum. Here is an overview of two very special learning experiences we have enjoyed over the last few weeks:

Book Fortnight

During Book Fortnight we focussed on books by the author Julia Donaldson. The children were given the opportunity to explore a range of her books through interactive story times, focussed activities and role play. The staff even put on a special performance of *The Gruffalo!* The focus on characters, story events and settings really captured the children's imaginations. All of these experiences helped the children to become Authors, Illustrators and Publishers who created their own books with their Story groups. The children created the characters, wrote and illustrated the story and helped to publish their books using the scanner and laminating machine.

Look out for the finished books in the reading area; they are a fantastic read!

Willow story enjoyed an immersive Gruffalo experience and made a book to record their experiences.



The children looked amazing in their costumes for World Book Day.



Oak Story focussed on creating their own version of *Superworm*, a book titled 'The Salamander Under The Sea'



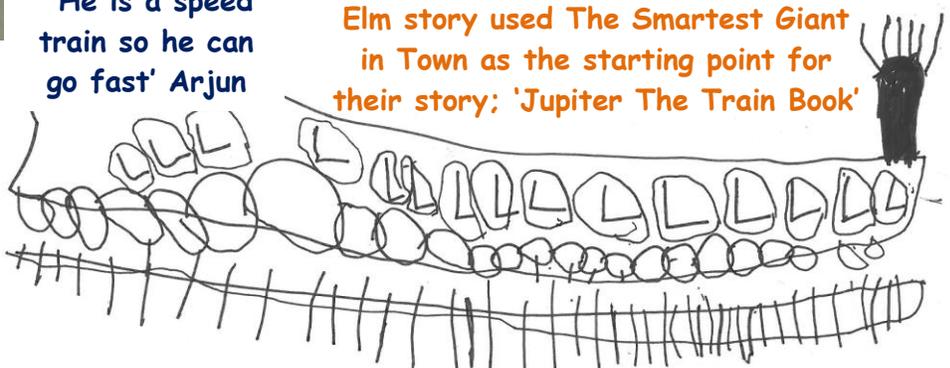
Ash Story were inspired by *Cave Baby* and wrote 'The Fire'



'He's got a lot of tentacles' Diora

'He is a speed train so he can go fast' Arjun

Elm story used *The Smartest Giant in Town* as the starting point for their story; 'Jupiter The Train Book'



'I'm so so hungry' Mia



We are learning:

- To use vocabulary related to books (Literacy and Communication & Language)
- To describe main characters, plots and story settings (Literacy)
- To write and draw for a purpose (Literacy)



Chicks

This half term, to everyone's excitement the '10 Day Living Egg Experience' commenced.



Day 1 - The ten eggs arrived in their incubator. There was 1 strict rule the children had to remember: **Don't touch the incubator as they are sleeping!** The incubator is only for looking and not touching.

Day 2 - We waited with much anticipation but nothing happened. We still had ten eggs, but if we looked very closely sometimes they would move!

Day 3 - **ACTION!** When we arrived on the third morning 6 chicks had hatched! The chicks were very wet and soggy when they emerged; they were covered in 'dander'. It did not take too long for the dander to fall off and the chicks to become fluffy. Also when we looked closely we could see the chick's 'egg tooth' on the end of its beak. The chickens only need the egg tooth to help them break out of the shell. Once they have hatched the egg tooth falls off.

Day 4 - By day 4 two more chicks had hatched. We had nine healthy chicks and one which did not hatch.

Day 5 - The chicks were then moved from the incubator into the 'brooder'. The brooder had a light bulb in it to keep the chicks nice and warm.

Day 6 - Every day we have to clean out the brooder and give them food and water. The chicks are now strong enough to be held. We gently cup them in our hands and remember to wash our hands afterwards.

Day 7 - At gathering time the children chose names for the chicks. Please meet:

Lego, Standy, Pipping, Cracky, Eggtooth, Hair, Bella, Storm and Fluffy!



Day 8 / 9 - We continued to care for the chicks and handle them with care and respect.

Day 10 - **BYE-BYE!** We were all very sad to say good bye to our new friends.

What is pipping?

Children's responses:

'when the chick comes out it has a eggtooth', 'when the chick is hatching it makes a little hole', 'When the egg tooth hits the egg'

What is an incubator?

Children's responses:

'It's where the eggs live so they will be warm'

'It is instead of their Mummy'

Through this experience the children had the opportunity to:

- Start to explain their own knowledge and understanding and ask appropriate questions of others about why and how things happen.
- To show care and respect for living things
- To develop an understanding of growth and changes over time

The children gained so much from the real life experience of the life cycle of a chicken.



COA Newsletter

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