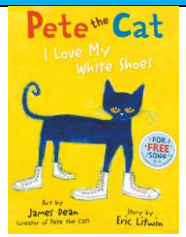
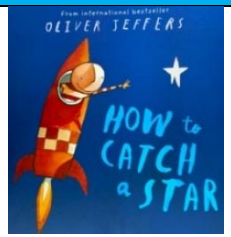
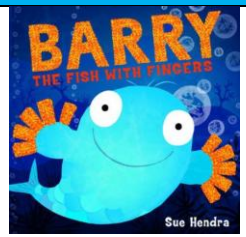
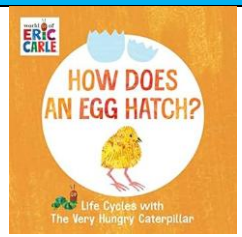
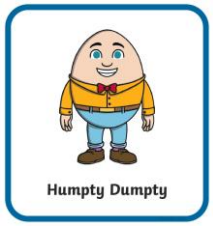
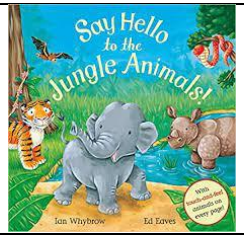
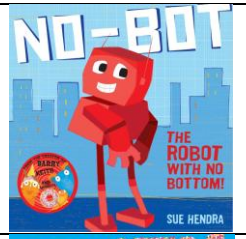
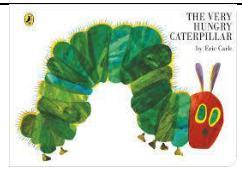
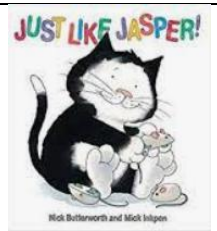
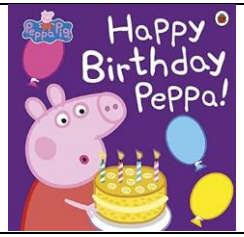
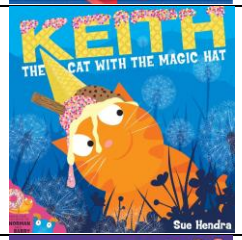
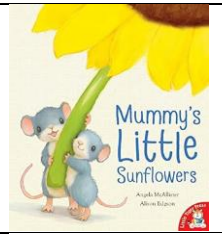
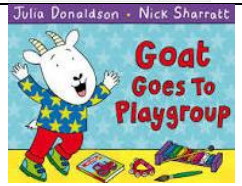
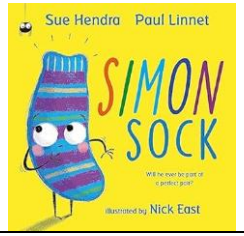
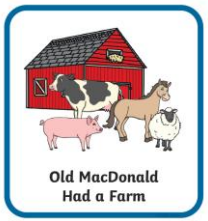
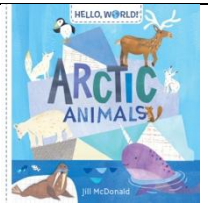
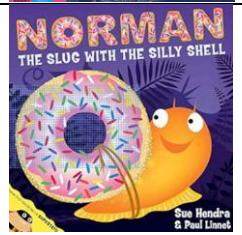
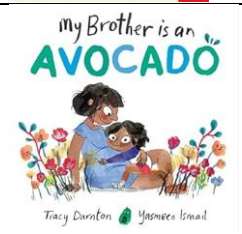
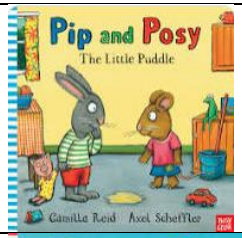
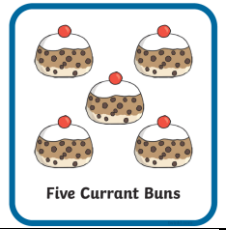
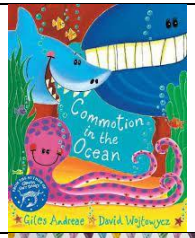
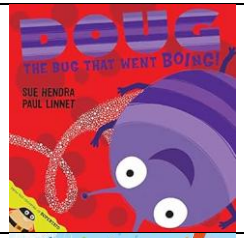
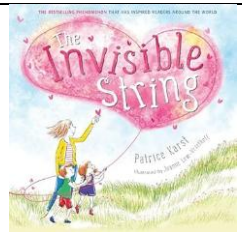
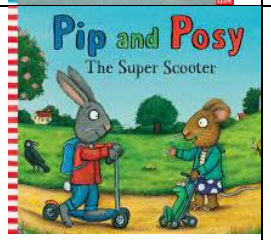
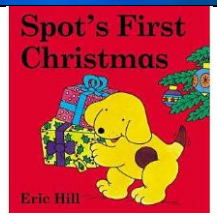
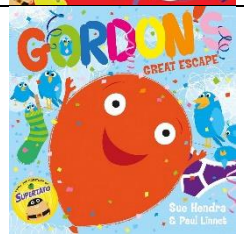
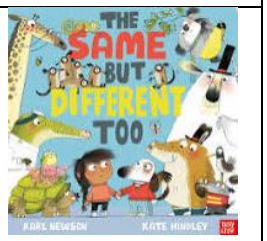
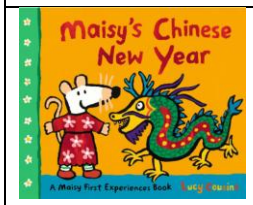
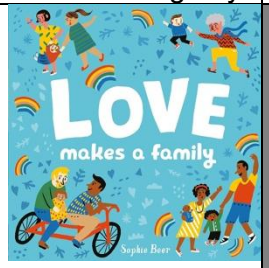
Early Years Overview 2025-2026

In Early Years, each carefully chosen story becomes the foundation for our curriculum, helping us introduce and explore key topics throughout the year. We use the themes, characters, and settings within each book to spark curiosity, guide discussions, and inspire hands-on learning across all areas of development. Stories provide a meaningful context for activities in language, mathematics, the arts, and the world around us, ensuring that children learn through play, imagination, and purposeful experiences. By revisiting and building on each text, we create a rich, connected learning journey that supports children's confidence, creativity, and early understanding of the world.

	Autumn Term 1 #WeAre Lemington	Autumn Term 2 #WeWill Remember	Spring Term 1 #WeAre Collaborative	Spring Term 2 #WeAre Global	Summer Term 1 #WeAre Resilient	Summer Term 2 #WeAre Ambitious
Topics	Marvelous Me What makes me a me?	Celebrations What do we celebrate?	Tell me a Tale/Rhyme Which is your favourite?	Around the World Where will we go?	Author Who is …? Julia Donaldson and Sue Hendra	Growing What will you become?
Why we teach each topic.	We want our children to have a strong understanding of themselves and others.	We want our children to understand all the ways people celebrate and why we remember and celebrate different celebrations.	Reading for pleasure is at a national low in 2 decades (AOEA, June 2025). We want our children to leave stories and reading, as well as developing the language they are exposed to and know.	We want our children to find out about places around the world and know there is more than our life than Lemington.	We want our children to know who an author is and where stories come from.	We want our children to know where they come from, how things are made and where things come from. We want them to know they have grown and are ready for their new class, preparing them for

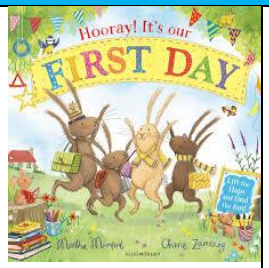
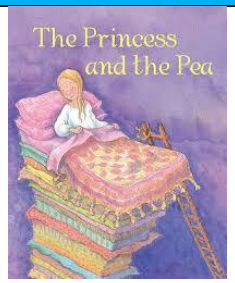
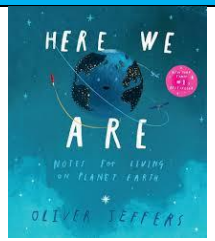
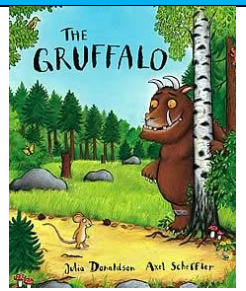
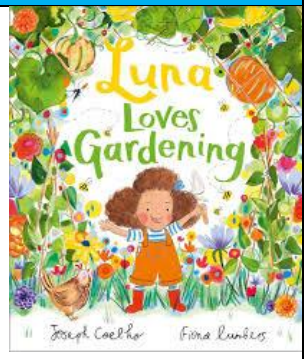
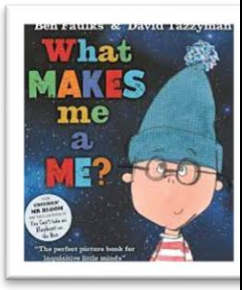
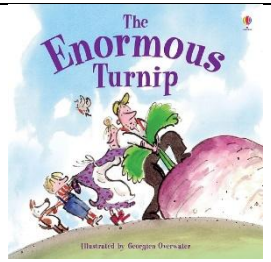
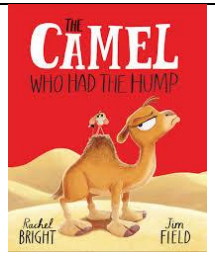
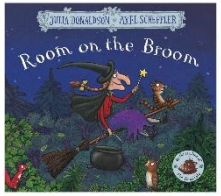
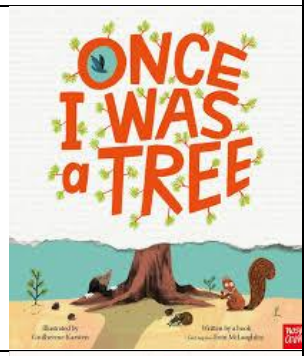
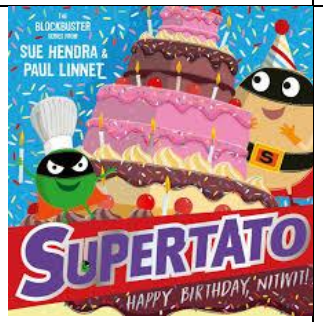
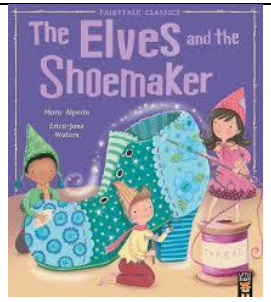
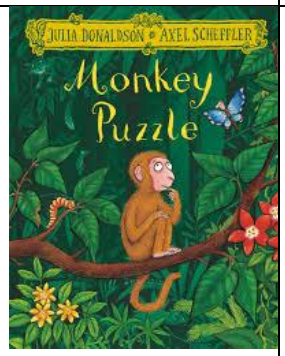
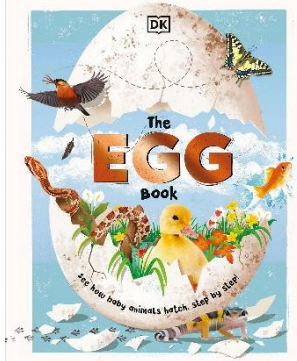
						the transition to Reception/Year 1.
Suggested visitors/ trips	Visit around Lemington: -coffee shop, -church, -Asda, -Lidl.	Whitehouse Farm to see Santa Visit a church at Christmas.	Visit Newcastle Library	Discovery Museum for STEM	The Gruffalo trial in Hamsterly Forest	Zoo Lab visit Northumberland Zoo
Dates for the Diary	15th October: Handwashing day/Nurse to visit 20th October: Diwali My First Festivals - Series 1: 2. Diwali - BBC iPlayer 31st October: Halloween	5th November: Bonfire Night 11th November: Remembrance Day 13th-18th November: Nursery Rhyme Week 17th November: Road Safety Week Christmas My First Festivals - Series 1: 3. Christmas - BBC iPlayer	17th February: Chinese New Year My First Festivals - Series 1: 5. Chinese New Year - BBC iPlayer 1st -7th February Storytelling week (a visitor to read a story) 14th February: Valentines Day 17th February: Random Acts of Kindness Day	26th February: Tell a Fairytale Day 6th -15th March: STEM Week 21st March: Poetry Day 15th March: Mother's Day 2nd April: Autism Awareness Day	20th May: Bee Day 15th June: Father's Day Easyer: My First Festivals - Series 1: 7. Easter - BBC iPlayer	Transition to our new class
Wow words linking to our topic	Marvelous Amazing Unique Special Family Friends	Bonfire Night Remeberance Day Birthday Different Celebrate Christmas	Story Character Magic Hero Villain Adventure	Arctic Jungle Desert Ocean Space Habitat	Robot Underwater Monster Escape Rescue Magic	Egg Hatch Insect Tiny Grow Antenna

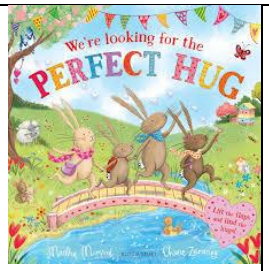
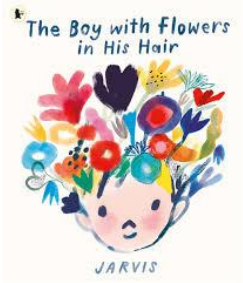
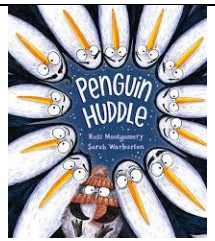
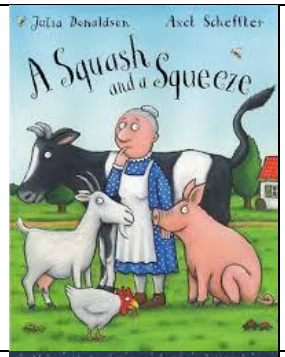
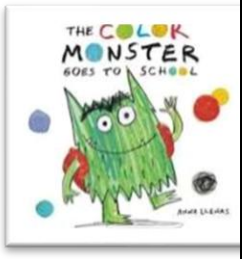
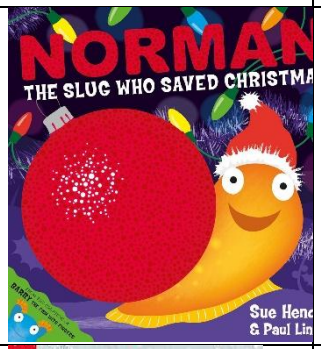
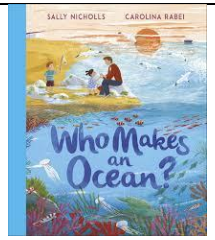
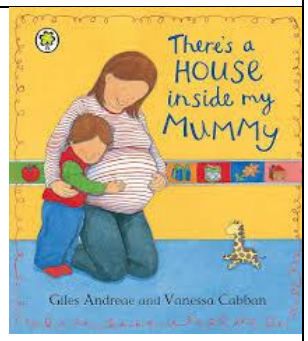
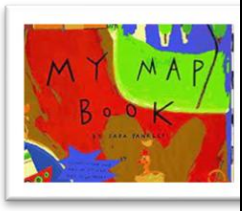
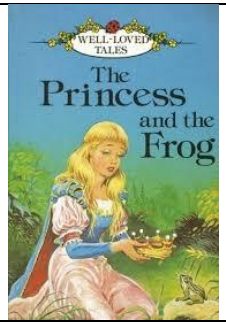
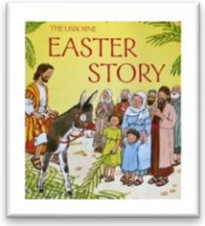
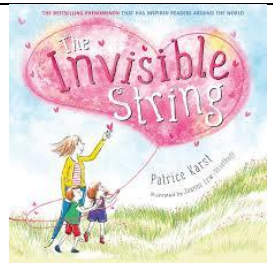
	Kind Happy Sad Help		Forest Castle Brave Wish	Easter		Cocoon Sunflower Transition
Nursery's Stories of the Week						
Week 1		**Bonfire Night Poem** Remember, remember the fifth of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason Should ever be forgot. Ed Shed				
Week 2		Poppy Poppy Poppy poppy what do you say? Wear me on Remembrance Day. Poppy poppy what do you tell? Many soldiers in battle fell. Poppy poppy what should we know? That peace on earth should grow, grow, grow.				
Week 3				**STEM Week** (Discovery Museum)		
Week 4		Differences 				

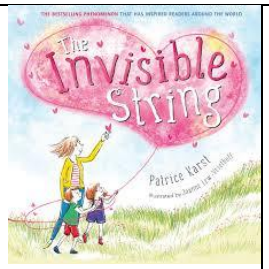
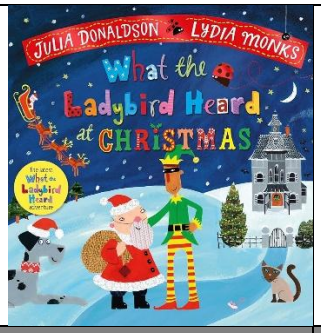
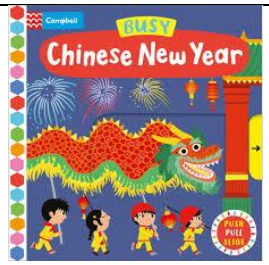
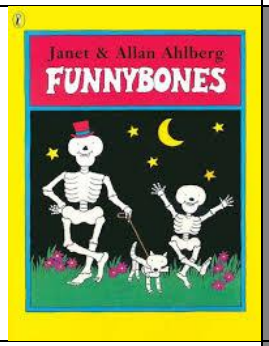
Week 5						
Week 6						
Week 7	 Handwashing day					
Week 8						

Wider Curriculum links:	**Art/DT**: Marvellous marks – draw self portrait using fine liner **RE**: Special Times and Belonging: Celebrate ourselves. **Geography:** Knows that we live in Lemington, which is in England. **History:** Say who they are and who they live with. **Music:** Enjoys listening to music.	**Art/DT**: Painting and mixed media – Painting and creating Christmas cards and calendars using primary colours. **RE**: Celebrations and Light: Celebrate Diwali and Christmas. **Geography:** Talks about what they see in their own environment using a range of vocabulary (Forest School and on Autumn Walk) **History:** Shows an interest in different occupations (nurse, doctor, police, fire…) for our #WeAreAmbitious showcase. **Science:** Identifies what you need to wear for each season and why. **Music:** Moves to music.	**Art/DT**: Textiles – Make a bookmark using card. **RE**: Special Books – look at different types of books. **Geography:** Shows an interest in life as a farmer. **Music:** Explores instruments and is beginning to name them (drum, tambourine, maraca, triangle…).	**Art/DT**: Junk modelling – make a rocket to travel the world. **RE**: Celebrate Easter (Special Places – visit a church) **Geography:** Knows that there are different countries in the world. **Science:** Identifies what you need to wear for each season and why. **Music:** Plays instruments quickly and slowly.	**Art/DT**: Scultpure and 3D creation – Make with playdough. **RE**: Kindness and Friendship – How can we be a nice friend (link to Islam and Charity) **History:** Comments on fictional characters in stories. **Science:** Understands the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. (Minibeasts for bugs and slugs). **Music:** Talks about how music makes them feel.	**Art/DT**: Structures – Paper mache the egg - guided one-to-one activity **RE**: New Life and Beginnings (Plant seeds and plans for the next academic year) **Science:** Plants seeds and cares for growing plants with support. Understands the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. **Music:** Plays a given instrument to a simple beat.

Reception's Stories of the Week

Week 1		**Bonfire Night Poem** Remember, remember the fifth of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason Should ever be forgot.				
Week 2		Poppy Poppy Poppy poppy what do you say? Wear me on Remembrance Day. Poppy poppy what do you tell? Many soldiers in battle fell. Poppy poppy what should we know? That peace on earth should grow, grow, grow.				
Week 3				STEM Week		

Week 4		Differences 				
Week 5						
Week 6						

Week 7						
Week 8						
Wow words linking to our topic	Marvelous Amazing Unique Special Family Friends Kind Happy Sad Help	Bonfire Night Remeberance Day Birthday Different Celebrate Christmas	Story Character Magic Hero Villain Adventure Forest Castle Brave Wish	Arctic Jungle Desert Ocean Space Easter	Gruffalo Giant Stickman Room Broom Squirrel Acorn	Insect Bug Crawl Wings Garden Nest Tiny Explore Hide Grow Antenna Cocoon Pollinate Habitat

Wider Curriculum links:	**Art/DT**: Marvellous marks – draw self portrait using colouring pencils **RE**: Special Times and Belonging: Celebrate ourselves. **Geography:** Uses maps to locate objects in 'real life'. **History:** **Science:** **Music:**	**Art/DT**: Painting and mixed media – Painting and creating Christmas cards and calendars using secondary colours. **RE**: Celebrations and Light: Celebrate Diwali and Christmas. **Science:** Names the seasons. Understands that the weather changes and that in different countries you have different weather. **Music:**	**Art/DT**: Textiles – Make a bookmark using felt. **RE**: Special Books – look at different types of books **History:** Comments on historical figures or objects in non-fiction texts. **Science:** Names the seasons. Understands that the weather changes and that in different countries you have different weather. **Music:**	**Art/DT**: Junk modelling – make a car to travel the world. **RE**: Celebrate Easter (Special Places – visit a church) **Geography:** Identifies similarities and differences between homes in other countries. **History:** **Science:** **Music:**	**Art/DT**: Scultpure and 3D creation – Make with clay. **RE**: Kindness and Friendship – How can we be a nice friend (link to Islam and Charity) **Geography:** **History:** **Science:** **Music:**	**Art/DT**: Structures – Paper mache the egg – independent activity **RE**: New Life and Beginnings (Plant seeds and plans for the next academic year) **Geography:** **History:** **Science:** Knows what plants need to survive. Talks about different life cycles. **Music:**