

## Early Years recommended apps

Some of these apps have in-app purchasing

### Apps



Nessy apps: Hairy Letters, Hairy Phonics 1,2&3, Hairy words 1&2 (£2.99 each)

This will help your child to learn the name and sounds of each letter and keywords.



Collins Big Cat (free)

A great animated book for young readers, where the children have several options: have the story read to them, read the story themselves or adapt the images to create their own story. They can write their own text or record their narrative; with opportunities to add speech bubbles and thought bubbles.



**Endless series e.g. Endless Wordplay**

These apps are animated and use a range of funny voices to explore letters and numbers, which children will love!



**Sight Words & Phonics Reading**

Reading games & fun educational activities to learn phonics & sight words. A great way to learn phonics, sight words, tracing, and complete adventure missions.



## Reading Eggs

To support learning to read, covering phonics, sight words, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension.



## Noisy Crow apps (cost varies)

You can buy books to see and listen to on your hand-held device.

You can also borrow books or buy books from this company. Each book comes with a free audio reading using children's voices, complete with sound effects and original music. Just scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet and hear the story.

Try it here! Scan the code below for the Stories Aloud edition of [Pip and Posy: The Super Scooter](#) by [Axel Scheffler](#):



## Cbeebies (free)

Go Explore - Fun Early Learning Skills App

Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App

Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App

Storytime - Reading Stories App



## Monster Hunt: The Memory Game (free)

Great for developing attention and concentration skills, and improving working memory. You get a few seconds to view where the monsters are hidden and then have to click on their hiding places. The difficulty grows, the better you get!



### **Bugs and Buttons (£0.99)**

This covers a wide range of basic skills: numbers and counting, fine motor skills, colours, sequencing, sorting, basic problem solving, matching and memory games, etc. It makes use of many tablet features – swipe, multi-touch, tilting, pinch and zoom. There are stamps as rewards, and encourages voice-overs; you can also pause or change the levels on games.



### **Bugs and Numbers (£2.99)**

There is plenty of basic fun maths tasks to keep children involved from counting games to more advanced activities.



### **EduGuru Maths (£1.99)**

This covers a variety of maths in a fun way.



### **Singing Fingers (£0.99)**

This lets you finger paint with sound. Just touch the screen while you make a sound, and colourful paint appears. Touch the paint to play back the sound again!



### **Isle of Tune Mobile (£2.99)**

Create your own unique musical journeys from street layouts. Roadside elements are your instruments and cars are the players.



### **Thinkrolls: Kings & Queens (£3.49)**

The scientific thinking required to solve the puzzles has a magical tone, with flying potions, ghosts and mirrors, and magical harps to put crocodiles to sleep. Challenges require thinking and planning ahead, but kids can try without penalty until they figure it out. The levels get progressively harder, and kids must complete all the chapters in one story before moving on to the next. As players complete each level, they collect candies and gems that unlock more costuming options to customize Thinkrolls characters. No reading is required.



### **Puppet Pals HD (Free or £1.99 to include a Directors Pass)**

For free, you have a limited collection of 'puppets' or cartoon characters and some backdrops which you can act out scenes, move around, record audio and generally get creative! The completed scene can then be exported to your camera roll to be used as part of a film in another app, such as imovie or Vintagio, etc. If you have the Director's Pass you can access all the options, including a range of characters and settings and the chance to use your own photographs as backdrops. You can also use images of yourself and crop the outlines to create puppets of yourself!



### **Doodle Buddy (free)**

Has plenty of options including stencils, stamps, backgrounds, images from the ipad's photo albums or the internet. Children can create a variety of brush strokes and easily undo any mistakes. There are options for adding text, comic-style speech bubbles and annotations with completed designs able to be shared, saved and printed in the usual ways.



### **CBeebies (free)**

This area has lots of fun and educational programmes for children.



### **Bee Bot (free)**

Beebots are used as an introduction to programming and control, the children understand that pressing a certain button has an effect on the Beebot's movement. Once having understood this concept, children can enter sequences of instructions and can predict routes and plan them. This app improves skills in directional language and programming through sequences of forwards, backwards, left and right 90 degree turns over 12 levels.

## **Podcasts**

Podcasts are a perfect screen-free activity for kids. They all have in-app purchases.



### **Kids Listen**

Listen to favourite shows, and discover new ones, with the Kids Listen app. It has fun and educational content – science, literature, history, bedtime stories, serialized stories, mindfulness/meditation, music, inspirational interviews, and more



### **Fruit Punch Music**

It's a kid-friendly music-streaming service with music that can appeal to older kids and parents, too. It's Safe as each song passes a multipoint approval process that ensures children will never hear anything inappropriate.



### **Communication and Language**

We will be introducing the children to our wonderful, curiosity box this term. Each week there will be a new object inside the box and we will work together to ask questions and find out more about the object and the topic around the object. e.g. The first week will be centred around babies and how we care for them.

Our weekly timetable will include discussion focused around a chosen question, circle times and of course, rich opportunities for language within our exciting indoor and outdoor environment. We also use 'Tales Toolkit' to create exciting stories together.

The Early Years environment has been designed to promote discussion through exploration, opportunities for imagination, creativity and in particular, questioning. Role play scenarios, small world, water and design stations are just a few of the areas which we will work alongside children to support their communication skills and enhance their vocabulary.

### **Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World**

One on a daily basis, children will have great fun in our design station with opportunities to join, assemble, cut, stick using lots of different media such as wood, card, shiny paper, tissue, plastic, wool... the list goes on. This area's focus is for the children to be as creative as they wish, with a nearby painting zone to add colour and texture to their product if required. They may choose to make their favourite toy, a model of a friend or even their home.

This term we will be drawing self-portraits with a focus on observation using a mirror, puppet and mask making. We will also design and make our own cards to send to people we love. Music is at the heart of our Early Years with children learning new rhymes, actions and experimenting with hearing and making different sounds.

Activities around the unit will promote exploration, awe and wonder. Our 'Curiosity Approach' will encourage questioning and challenge and enable children to be independent thinkers. We will discuss and discover topics from the world right through to family traditions and customs, plants and animals. Mrs Palser is very excited to be teaching weekly Computing sessions this year and will be using Purple Mash with all the children; you will also be able to use this at home with your child. We will be discussing and exploring technology around us and beginning to understand how we can stay safe online through stories.

### **Mathematical Development**

This term our focus will be on number. Opportunities for number will be accessible throughout our Early Years unit. We will spend time working alongside the children to spot numbers within their environment in the first term with a focus on the numbers 0-5. Children will be immersed into understanding the value of each number and how we can make numbers in different ways. Daily counting will take place, using rhymes, actions and there will be a focus on the recognition of dice patterns.

Children will enjoy activities which encourage ordering and counting using resources such as natural objects, Numicon, egg boxes, cubes, sparkly objects... basically anything that they want to count and promotes 1:1 correspondence. We also use 'Ten Town' to help the children remember what each number looks like and represents.



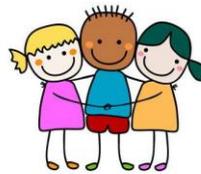
### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development**

Our JIGSAW topic in class will be 'Being me in my world'. It will focus on new beginnings, settling in and understanding themselves as a unique individual. The children will also be exploring the following values: Respect and Happiness.



Ongoing opportunities in the garden will enable children to challenge themselves physically and develop new skills such as balancing, climbing, exploring space, riding bikes and using different pieces of play equipment such as balls, hoops, bats. Reception children will work on their physical skills in class and outside during PE sessions on a weekly basis, with Nursery taking part from Term 2. The children will also enjoy Dough Disco and Funky Fingers on a weekly basis which will support their fine motor development.

### **Term 1** **What's your story?**



### **This is me!** **FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**Mrs Holloway, Mrs Palser, Miss Hinton and the Early Years Team**

### **Reading and Writing**



Phonics will start in week one in Reception. The children will start to learn a sound a day, with blending opportunities from the end of week one. You will be kept informed of which sounds your child has learnt so they can continue to practise them at home. Reception children are encouraged to take a high-quality picture book home to share with you.

Reading is a vital part of the Early Years curriculum. We will be encouraging children to visit and use the 'Friendship Book Den' and model how we use and share books, enjoy pictures, new vocabulary, characters and also the excitement behind new facts or an imaginative storyline.

Early writing is another wonderful part of the Early Years and we love to share in the children's ideas and hear them story tell through placing meaning to their marks.

This term we will concentrate on daily name writing in Reception and starting to mark make with their newly learnt sounds by encouraging them to write labels for parts of our body and pictures of our family, house and classroom environment. Our 'Messaging Centre' is a great place to find all sorts of resources to mark make with!