



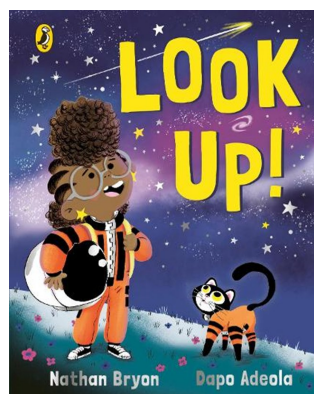
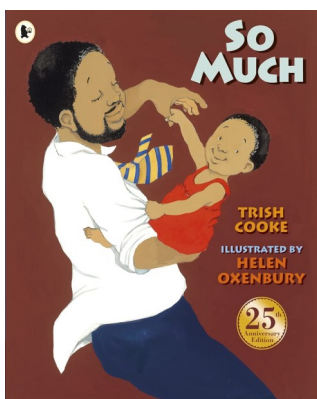
12th October 2026 Black History Month

This October, the children will be learning about Black History Month. Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contribution that Black people have made over the centuries to shape the dynamic and diverse country which we have today.

The children will be reading a range of books linked to Black history and culture.

We believe that every child deserves to see themselves reflected in the stories they read and the activities they enjoy. Black History Month is an opportunity for all families to celebrate diversity, share inspiring stories, and learn together.

Sharing books is a wonderful way to open conversations. Here are a few you may enjoy reading with your child:



Black History Month is not just about learning history. It is about celebrating stories, people and cultures that enrich all of our lives. By introducing books, music, food and creativity, we can help our children grow up proud of who they are, respectful of others, and excited to live in a diverse world.

Laura Henry-Allain, early years expert and the creator of *JoJo and Gran Gran*, has a special episode on BBC iplayer for Black History Month.

In *It's Time for a Voyage*, JoJo and Gran Gran visit an exhibition to learn about the time Gran Gran moved from Saint Lucia to England when she was a little girl. Lots of people have donated special objects and photos for the exhibition, including Gran Gran who donates her precious little duffle coat, her only memento from that time. But as JoJo and Gran Gran explore the exhibition, Gran Gran makes some extra-special discoveries of her own.

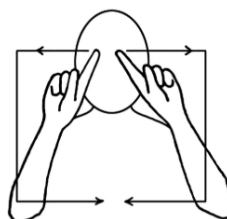


Click here to watch ['It's Time to go on a Voyage'](#).

To read



Picture



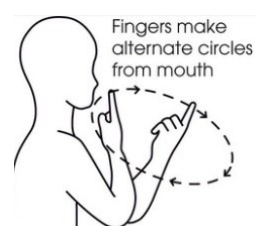
Book



To sing



A story



To finish / To end





Rachel McMillan Nursery School

Newsletter — Autumn 1 2026

12th October 2026

Little Wandle
Foundations

Little Wandle

Little Wandle
Foundations

We have recently started the **Little Wandle Foundations** phonics scheme at Rachel McMillan. The Nursery years are the best time to lay the foundations for your child's future reading. By spending time talking with your child, and focusing on the sounds of our language, you can help your child get ready for formal phonics teaching in Reception.

This week, we are holding two short and informative workshops for Mums, Dads and carers, to introduce you to this new scheme and to share with you how you can help your children at home. You only need to attend one session. The first workshop is on **Thursday 15th**

October at 9.15-9.45am and the second workshop is on **Friday 16th October at 2.30-3pm**. Please sign your name up on the lists outside your child's shelter, then we will know who and how many people to expect at each session.

Little Wandle has produced resources for parents to help you support your child with saying their sounds. There are also some useful videos of the rhymes we will be learning in Nursery.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Vacancy

Chartwells is currently recruiting a dedicated part-time cook, contracted to work 10 hours per week (based here at Rachel McMillan Nursery).

Part of Compass Group UK&I, Chartwells is the leading provider of catering and support services to the education sector.

Please note: This role is contracted to 42.6 weeks per year.

Chartwells is looking for someone to maintain a high standard of quality work. In return, you will have the chance to progress your career with a company that invests in its people and celebrates individuality.

For more information or to apply for the role, click on this [link](#) or visit <https://jobs.compass-group.co.uk/en-gb/job/75847143>



Some little reminders...

- **Labels in clothing** — Please make sure that clothes / coats etc. are labelled. Labelled clothes make it easier to return any items that have been misplaced or muddled.
- **Weather appropriate clothing**—With the cooler months upon us, please can you ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for colder and wetter weather, including coats, hats, scarves, gloves and wellies when appropriate.
- **Please do not use mobile phones on site**— Mobile phones **should not** be used on the nursery premises at any time, other than when in Orchard, whilst you are settling your child. This is a safeguarding rule so please adhere to this at all times. We also want to encourage communication between you and your children as much as possible. Screens can interfere with this opportunity to help you communicate with them and develop your child's language skills.
- **Front gate**— We would like to remind parents and carers to close the gate behind them for the safety of the children. Please make sure that you do not let anyone in behind you. Thank you for your support.

Diary Dates

Please make sure that the office has your correct contact details so that you can receive messages.

Autumn 1 2026

- **15th October** - 9:15am Little Wandle Parent Phonics workshop.
- **16th October** - 2:30pm Little Wandle Parent Phonics workshop. (Both phonics workshops will contain the same content, so there is no need to attend both sessions. These are aimed at the parents of children who will be moving to primary school in September 2027.)
- **23rd October** - 3pm Shelters close for the half term break. (Extended Day finishes at 5:30pm. Holiday provision will be available - A booking form is available from the office)

Autumn 2 2026

- **2nd November** - All children return to nursery.
- **4th November** - 9am 'Stay and plant'. Stay and plant a spring bulb with your child.
- **18th December** - 2pm Shelters close for the Christmas break. (Extended Day finishes at 5:30pm.)