

News from the Early Years Team

January 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all! We hope that you had a fabulous Christmas holiday with your children. On behalf the team, we would like to say a huge thank for your generous gifts and cards. We are now looking ahead to a busy and productive 2017!

Our new theme is '**Once upon a time...**' and during this term we will also focus on Chinese New Year which is celebrated on Saturday 28 January and is the Year of the Rooster.

Once upon a time...

We will start by identifying key features that are common within both traditional and fairy tales. We shall explore a plethora of literature and film clips to support our learning and help us identify characters, plots, themes and sequences. We shall begin to extend our early writing skills by identifying the importance of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces when writing sentences.

We will learn to use non-fiction texts accurately to further deepen our knowledge and understanding of a range of real life scenarios, such as building homes, writing recipes and organising parties.

Chinese New Year



We will explore the country and culture of China by finding similarities and differences with our own surroundings and lives. We will search for England and China on maps of the world and consider how to travel between the two places.

We will read traditional Chinese stories, explore Chinese food, clothes and customs, and learn about how Chinese New Year is celebrated.

In addition to this we will write our names using Chinese characters, make Chinese dragons, learn to count to 10 in Chinese and dance to Chinese music. **The children will be performing a dragon dance to parents and family on the playground at 2.45pm on Friday 27 January, please come along to watch.**

In addition to this, we will continue to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme, *Read, Write Inc.*

We will be revising the sounds already taught, and reinforce the new sounds (long vowels) as appropriate. The children will continue to practise blending sounds together to read simple and increasingly more complex words. During this term children will also revise counting, recognising, writing, and ordering numbers 0-50 and beyond. We will continue to learn to

calculate using addition and subtraction. In addition to this we will learn to plot pictograms using information gathered from our peers, use positional language accurately to give instructions and compare the length and weights of objects to find which are longer and shorter, heavier and lighter.

Thank you!

Thank you to all parents who have been collecting 'crafty bits' and 'junk' for use in the classroom – your help is greatly appreciated. We continue to require donations, in particular we will need egg cartons and corks this term.



Show and Tell

'Show and Tell' proved popular last term with the children and your child is again invited to take part on the day designated to their group.

Your child should bring just one item on the day allocated to their group (see table below). This item should be linked to the theme, which this term is **Once upon a time...** and could include our sub theme of **Chinese New Year**. It might be a photograph, traditional tale, book, object, model, picture, painting, home-made book, or piece of writing, - the possibilities are endless, but please ensure that toys remain at home.

It may help to talk with your child about their chosen item beforehand. Here are a few things you might like to discuss:

- ➡ What is it and why have you chosen it?
- ➡ How is it linked to our theme?
- ➡ Where did you find it? How did you make it? How does it work?
- ➡ For a story book – What is it about? Why do you like it? What happens at the beginning, middle and end?
- ➡ For a non-fiction book – What is it about? Which is your favourite part? How can you use the contents page to find your favourite part?

Friday 20 January	Tigers
Friday 27 January	Lions
Friday 3 February	Pumas

Requests

- ➡ P.E. this term will be dance, so outdoor PE kits may remain at home. Children will **not** require footwear for indoor PE, as this is done in bare feet.
- ➡ Please ensure that **all of your child's clothing is named**, including coats and PE kits.
- ➡ Please could you check your washing piles...we have a few missing items of PE clothing! Thank you.

Thank you for all of your support. We hope that you and your child have a great 3rd term. Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small.

The Early Years Team

Miss Henson, Mrs Bussey and Mrs Redman