

News from the Early Years Team



November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you have an enjoyable half term break. I wanted to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all the children for a successful first term at school. Everyone has settled in incredibly well and they did a fantastic job learning and performing the harvest songs for our first assembly. Well done, Foundation! We are now looking forward to the run up to Christmas and all the excitement that entails.

Our new theme this term is 'Traditional Tales' and we will also learn about Bonfire night, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas around the world.



Traditional Tales

The children will be listening to a range of stories such as *The Gingerbread Man*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, as well as any other traditional stories the children show an interest in. They will act out and recreate the stories using masks, puppets and a range of props. We will discuss where each story is set and how each character is feeling at different points in the story. We will compare different versions of each story to see how details and endings sometimes change.



Afternoon activities will relate to each story and include following a recipe to make gingerbread biscuits, building bridges out of different construction materials for the three billy goats and creating story sound tracks using different musical instruments.

Christmas

We are looking forward to finding out about each child's Christmas traditions, as well as exploring how Christmas is celebrated around the world. We will be busy making Christmas crafts such as cards, decorations and calendars, alongside rehearsing for our Foundation Stage and KS1 Christmas production.

Performances will take place on **Tuesday the 12th December at 1.30pm** and **Wednesday the 13th December at 9.30am**.



Reading and Writing

We will continue to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme Read Write Inc.

Don't forget our Reading Workshop 2: Thursday 9th November at 9:00am and 6:30pm.

We will be revising Speed Sounds Set 1, aiming for all children to be able to read and write each sound. If your child is not yet independently blending sounds together to read three letter words they will continue to work on *Word Time* using our magnetic letters and boards. If your child is independently blending they will continue to practise reading green words using 'Fred talk' and move on to reading 'Ditties'. They will also be learning to spell using their 'Fred Fingers'. Before learning Speed Sounds Set 2, the children will learn to blend four letter words to read e.g. trap, jump, best.



Once your child is blending sounds to read we will send home the first set of red words (remember you can't 'Fred a red!') and a book with words from our reading scheme.



Number, Shape, Space and Measures

This term the children will have the opportunity to use everyday language to talk about size, weight and capacity. They will estimate, measure, weigh, compare and order objects in a range of fun ways linked to our topic.

The children will consolidate their learning from the previous term by working with numbers up to ten and be introduced to the concept of zero. They will place numbers in order and say one more or less than a number. They will also learn about estimating and check their 'sensible guess' by counting accurately. During this unit the children will learn ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) and the key vocabulary associated with these.



Role-play Area

This term the children will continue to access the home corner and have chosen to have a role-play Toy Shop (which will then turn into a Christmas Workshop).

If you have anything at home (or work!) that you could donate for these areas, or know of someone else who can, it would be greatly appreciated, such as...

Home Corner	Toy Shop	Christmas Workshop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwanted phones Magazines Washing up liquid bottles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwanted handbags Unwanted boys bags Unwanted purses or wallets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrapping paper Used/ unwanted cards Gift bags Tinsel Toy brochures/catalogues

(or anything else you can think of!)

PE

The children have been super excited about taking part in PE sessions in the hall. This term our focus will be gymnastics so outdoor PE kits will not be needed. Children will **not** require footwear for indoor PE as it is done in bare feet.



Show and Tell

There is no set day for 'show and tell'. The children may bring something in when their interest is sparked or when they would like to share something special that has happened to them.

Ideas for show and tell might be a photograph, book, artefact, object, collage, picture, model, painting, home-made book, or piece of writing - the possibilities are endless.

Each child will be encouraged to speak in front of the rest of the class. It often helps 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, 'Bonfire Night'/'Remembrance Sunday'/'Traditional tales'
- 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?



Ben the Bear!

Each Friday Ben the Bear will come home with one of the children. He can stay for the week and come back to school the following Friday to show the class what he's been up to. He's very excited!

How Can You Help?

- If you are having a clear out ready for Christmas we would love any donations of unwanted toys that you think could be useful for school. We are in particular need of dolls, including clothes and accessories. Aqua doodles and magnetic drawing boards would also be useful. Thank you.
- We love it when you send in 'craft bits' or old rolls of wallpaper for the children to use and be creative with.



Thank you for all of your support.

We hope that you and your child have a great second term. It should be very exciting with the lead up to Christmas and I am sure many happy memories will be made!

Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small you may think they are.

The Early Years Team

Miss Bytheway and Mrs Hudson