



Reception Newsletter – Term 3 – Once Upon a Time

Happy New Year everyone. We hope you were all able to have an enjoyable Christmas break and have had a good start to the New Year. May we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for the many wonderful gifts, cards and messages you gave to us for Christmas; it was very kind of you. A big thank you also, for all of the positive feedback we received following our two Nativity performances. We were very proud of all of the children. Christmas and New Year seem like a distant memory, as our learning for this term is already underway. Our focus is on Traditional Tales and the children have begun this topic by enjoying, “Mixed-Up Fairytales” and “You Choose Fairy Tales”, both by Hilary Robinson.

There will be a couple of changes to the content of our daily routine, mainly on a Thursday. Mrs Pearman will be offering Forest Schools to each class on alternate Thursdays. On the intermediate weeks, Mrs Brookes and Mrs Smith will be taking small groups for Music and Art respectively. The dates for Forest Schools are below.

P.E. will continue to be on a Friday and your child should be wearing their P.E. kit to school. Please refer to previous newsletters for further details. This term, the children will be exploring different ways of balancing. In our R.E. lessons, we will be looking at some new testament stories, thinking about the key question, “What do Christians believe is special about Jesus and the message he brings?”

We continue to teach four new sounds per week in our phonics lessons and the children are working hard to blend these sounds together to read new words and sentences. In Maths, the children will embed their understanding of numbers to 5, including 0, before moving on to exploring numbers from 6 to 8. This half term, we will also be looking at how to combine two groups of objects and find the total.

The bulk of our day, outside of adult input times, is spent interacting and engaging with the children during their “exploring” time, supporting them to use and apply their previously learnt skills.

Key Information:-

- Reading books should be in your child’s bookbag every day. Please record any comments your child makes about either set of books. It would be particularly useful to hear how they are getting on with the book that they read to you, e.g. how independent are they in blending sounds together, which tricky words are they able to read without support, are they remembering repeated words from page to page and beginning to recognise them on sight?
- Coats and jumpers – please continue to support your child to do up the zip on their coat independently. It would also be really helpful if you could work with them to put their jumper the correct way around after they have taken it off before putting this into the jumper box, as this makes it so much easier when they need to put it back on again later in the day.
- Please refer to a separate letter sent from Mrs. Pearman regarding the clothing that your child will need to take part in Forest Schools. The dates for next term are below. Please ensure that all individual items are named, including gloves and socks. If your child does not have a pair of welly boots in school, then please try to ensure they have these ready for Forest School.
- Mr. Redpath’s Class (Elm Class) – Thursday 4th January, Thursday 18th January, Thursday 1st February.
- Miss Goddard’s Class (Ash Class) – Thursday 11th January, Thursday 25th January, Thursday 8th February.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- To learn about setting goals for the future.
- To overcome obstacles.
- To stay motivated when doing something challenging, building resilience.
- To learn about the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude.
- To work with others to achieve an end goal.
- To talk about the things we needed to do to achieve our goals.

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Communication and Language

- To explain how things work and why.
- To ask and answer questions using the words what, how, and why.
- To retell some familiar stories (traditional tales).
- To explain and describe some changes that occur (e.g. plants, seasons)

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Physical Development – Balance

- To explore different ways to hold a static balance using hands and feet, either standing or seated.
- To explore different ways to balance with a partner.
- To explore different ways to balance using small body parts.
- To explore different ways to balance using large body parts.
- To learn how to balance with different equipment.

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Understanding the World

- We will learn about Chinese New Year, using the text, The Great Race and find China on the globe.
- We will continue to use our senses to explore the natural world.
- Our topic this term provides lots of opportunities to explore changing states, such as making ice, porridge and kindness cookies.

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Term 3 – Spring 2024

Expressive Art and Design

- **Joining** - mixing and making glue. Using different
- **Printing** - vehicle tracks. Animal prints/patterns.
- **Collage** - traditional tale story scenes with a focus on the Henri Matisse.
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- What do Christians believe is special about Jesus and the message he brings?

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Literacy

- This half term's focus is on traditional tales. There are lots of different versions of each of the stories and you may like to read some of these with your child at home, taking time to compare any similarities and differences between versions.

The key things we will be focusing on are:-

- Talking about the events and characters in books.
- Making predictions about what might happen next in a story.
- Talking about our favourite books.
- Using vocabulary and events from stories in our play.
- Re-reading books to build up our confidence, fluency and understanding and enjoyment in word reading.

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Phonics

- We will learn the phonemes:-
- ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er, and words with double letters – dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, pp, ff.
- We will also learn the tricky words:- was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure.

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Reception Class Trip to Wildwood
26.1.24 – Ash Class, 29.1.24 – Elm Class

- Further details will be sent out later in the term, however, in order for this trip to go ahead, we need 7 volunteers per class. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are able to help.

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Maths

- We will continue to learn about subitising, counting and the composition of numbers within, and beyond 5. We will also introduce 0 (zero).
- We will be identifying equal and unequal parts of a set.
- We will connect quantities to numerals.
- We will also be comparing mass and capacity and further developing our knowledge of length and height.
- We will begin to measure time.

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