

Topic Overview for Parents

Term- Spring 2

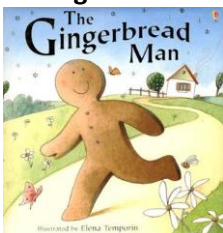
Welcome to our new topic, **‘Once Upon a Time’**



Rationale

This half term the children will be exploring a range of traditional tales in our ‘Once Upon a Time’ topic. We will be using Drawing Club, drama and Story Maker sessions to help immerse the children in a world full of imagination where anything can happen and often does!

TOPIC	Enquiry Question	Sparkly Starter
Once upon a time	How do I write a story?	Staff drama production for the children Writing focus: children to write to the elves to ask for some shoes for the role-play area shoe shop

Story Maker	Key Literature	Fab Finish
The Gingerbread Man 	The Gingerbread Man – Story Maker The Runaway Pancake The Runaway Chapati The Runaway Wok Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion The Elves and the Shoemaker The Enormous Turnip Jack and the Beanstalk	Trip to Upton Library (date tbc)

Literacy

In Literacy this half term the children will be learning the story of The Gingerbread Man during their Story Maker sessions. This will be to help children develop their love of stories as well as their story vocabulary.

We will be focussing on using our phonic knowledge to decode more complex words using the special friends ‘sh’, ‘ch’, ‘th’, ‘ng’, ‘nk’, ‘ay’, ‘ee’, ‘igh’, ‘ow’, ‘oo’ and ‘oo’ as well as using the red words learnt so far to read and understand simple sentences.

When writing, the children will be using their sounds to write simple words and sentences. We continue to encourage children to use the correct letter formation to ensure their writing can be read by themselves and others.

We will also be continuing our daily Drawing Club sessions to help the children’s love of writing and mark-making.

Creative Arts and PSHCE

In our Drama sessions, the children will be learning how to act out the story of the ‘Gingerbread Man’ and how to create their own stories.

In our SCARF (PSED) sessions the children will discussing the theme of ‘Rights and Respect’. They will be learning about understanding and looking after the needs and views of others.

Maths

During this term the children will be learning to count objects to 20 with accuracy. They will be adding and subtracting using numbers to 10 and will be taught a range of mathematical vocabulary associated with calculation, patterns, 3D shapes, positional language, money, time and comparing size and weight.

Understanding the World

The children will be learning about traditional tales from around the world. They will also be given the opportunity to cook and taste foods they have been learning about in their books e.g. gingerbread biscuits.

Physical Development

This half term the children will be taught to represent their ideas, thoughts and feelings through dance and drama. They will also be using their fine motor skills to learn how to sew, thread and weave materials.

Home learning

It has been fantastic to see so many children reading regularly and completing their phonics 'Learn to Read' work.

Please help your child to practise reading their red words on the sheet in their reading diary. These will be assessed regularly to check progress and a new red word card will be added once the previous one has been completed. Once your child can read the words on all four of the red word cards, their next challenge will be to spell these words.

Tapestry

- To help us to get an accurate picture of your child's development, we strongly encourage you to celebrate your child's achievements with us through Tapestry as it is important that we have a balance of 'wow' moments from home as well as from school. Examples of 'wow' moments from home could be riding a bike for the first time, recognising numbers up to 20 when out and about, using their measuring skills to weigh out the ingredients to make their own gingerbread biscuits.

Other Information

Library books, reading books and reading records

- Please ensure these are kept in bookbags. Library books will normally be changed on Tuesdays. When this is not possible, it will be on an alternative day. New library books will not be issued until the previous ones have been returned.
- Regular reading- please make time to read with your child at least three times a week and write this in their reading diary. Reading records are checked every Thursday. On Fridays, all the children who have read three or more times at home will go into a reading raffle to win a prize.

Dates for this term

Monday 23rd February- first day back at school after half term break

Week 1 - PSHE SCARF workshops in classes

Thursday 5th March- World Book Day

Friday 6th March- INSET (school closed for children)

Friday 13th March – Reception vision screening

Thursday 19th March – Reception vision screening (continued)

Friday 27th March - last day of school before the Easter holiday

EASTER BREAK- Monday 30th April to Friday 10th April 2026

Monday 13th April- first day back after the Easter break (start of summer term)

Many thanks for your continued support

The Reception Team

