



## Reception Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new term! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy new year.

### Our Themes

Our main theme for this half term is called 'Will you read me a story?' We will be reading a variety of traditional tales and fairy tales, and finding out the answers to the following questions:

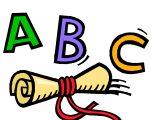
1. How many bowls of porridge did Goldilocks eat?
2. What did Jack find at the top of the beanstalk?
3. Is the Big Bad Wolf really so bad?
4. Why was the Gingerbread Man running away?



Children will be looking at different character's homes and castles, finding out which characters are the goodies or the baddies, and retelling

stories in the correct sequence. Our role-play area will become a Fairy Tale cottage/forest. Children are welcome to bring in books or objects relating to our themes to share with their friends or put out on display.

### Literacy:



**Reading** - We will continue to develop a love for stories

focusing on reading for pleasure. As and when children are ready, we will send home login details to access reading books at home.

**Bug Club Reward System** - A quick reminder about the reading reward system for children who are reading their online Bug Club books at home. Children who have read at least one Bug Club book a week and completed the Bug activities will receive a stamp on their sticker chart. Children will receive a reward for every 5 books they read. In order for your child to get a stamp on their sticker chart, we ask parents to comment in the reading records once a week.

**Phonics** - Thank you for all of your support with our phonics work over the past term. It has been great to see the progress that all of the children have made. This half term, we will be working on the following new sounds in our phonics lessons: *ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo/oo, ar, or* and *ur*.

We will continue to send home the new letter sounds as soon as we have learnt them in school. The children will be doing a range of activities to help them recognise letters at the start, in the middle and end of words, along with developing their recognition of tricky words.

**Writing** - Children will be labelling pictures, writing lists and beginning to write short captions and sentences. In handwriting, we will be focussing on accurate formation of all letters in the alphabet.

### Maths:



**Number** - In maths, we will be focusing on the sequencing and recognition of numbers to 20.

Part of this work will be to develop accurate formation of numbers. We will be

developing children's understanding of simple addition and subtraction. We are encouraging children to have quick recall of simple number facts e.g. *what is one more than five? What is five add one more? What is five add five?*

We will also be introducing counting in groups of 2's, 5's and 10's.

**Shape, Space & Measure** - During this half term we will be exploring weight, length, height and capacity. Children will be finding out how many scoops of oats will fill Goldilocks' bowl? How many footsteps long is Jack's beanstalk? How tall is Rapunzel's tower? The Three Little Pigs are building new houses, which materials are the heaviest or the lightest - wood, straw or bricks?

### Reminders

- Due to the cold weather, please could you send a jumper or cardigan and a warm coat into school with your child's name in to ensure learning can be taken outside.



- Children are welcome to bring hats, scarves and gloves to school, we have a box in the cloakroom for children to use. Please ensure all items are named.

### Important Information

- PE will be taking place on Friday mornings for the whole of this half term, so if you haven't already, PE bags need to be brought into school.
- **Swimming** - Children will need to bring their swimming kit to school most Wednesday mornings (see the diary dates for when swimming kits are needed) They will need swimming costumes/trunks (no swimming shorts please), swimming hat for girls or boys with longer hair styles and a towel. The

swimming lessons are to help develop water confidence. All children are provided with back floats and woggles. On occasions where we do not have a swimming lesson, or the swimming lesson is cancelled, children will have a PE lesson instead.

### Diary Dates

- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January & 15<sup>th</sup> February** - **Celebration Assembly** Children in Reception are invited to bring in certificates, medals or trophies to show in assembly.
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8.50 - 9.30am** - **Parent Drop-In**  
This is an opportunity to stay and play with your child and have a look around the classroom.
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** - Children break up for half term
- **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February** - Children return to school

### Swimming dates:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> March (The last swimming lesson will be a fun session and children are invited to bring in inflatables)

Thank you parents and carers for your continuing help and support!

The Reception Team

