



## Happy New Year!

A big thank you for the good wishes and lovely gifts we received before Christmas. They really were appreciated. It's been lovely to welcome the children back after the break, and they have returned happily and very settled.

Please continue to use Seesaw to talk to your child about what they have been doing and learning at Squirrels. We love to see what they children do at home too, so please share any special moments of achievements. If you need a new code to login, please let me know.



Parents often ask what they can do to help their child at home. Sharing a bedtime story is one of the best ways to support your child. Here are some of the reasons why:

- Supports consistency and helps to create a good bedtime routine
- Fosters a bond between child and parents
- Develops good listening and concentration skills
- Introduces new language
- Develops comprehension skills
- Promotes prediction skills
- Sparks imagination and stimulates curiosity
- Develops conversation skills

If you have any questions or queries at any time then please email me directly and I will get back to you as soon as I can: [h.hope@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:h.hope@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk)

## KEY INFORMATION

- Please label everything, especially jumpers, coats, water bottles and lunch boxes
- Remember to bring a coat everyday – we play outside in nearly all weathers
- Please remember we are a “nut free” school. We have children in nursery and school with severe nut allergies so please do not send nuts or products containing nuts with your child
- Please cut grapes and cherry tomatoes in half, length ways, to prevent a choking hazard

See Overleaf for an overview of the curriculum for this half term →

## Physical Development

- We will be continuing to develop the children's fine motor skills through a range of activities such as playdough, puzzles, threading, and building
- We will be developing the children's independence skills by encouraging them to put on their own coats and other clothing
- We will be playing and exploring in our garden, encouraging the children to move in different ways



This Term our topic is:

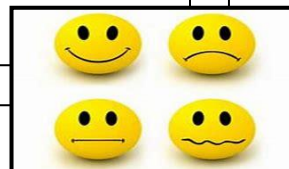
# Traditional Tales



**Squirrels – Spring 1 2026**

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- We will encourage the children to follow our rules and routines and develop their independence
- We will talk about our emotions, think about how we are feeling and how others might be feeling too
- We will talk about how the characters are feeling in the stories that we read



## Communication and Language

- We will be sharing traditional stories and identifying the repeated refrains. We will encourage the children to join in and to use different voices for the different characters
- We will practise retelling familiar stories using story props to expand vocabulary and develop sequencing skills
- We will be singing favourite rhymes and songs and learning some new ones too
- We will be learning about rhyme and finding matching rhyming objects



## Literacy

- We use a different book each week to base our learning around. This half term it is a different traditional tale each week
- We will teach Phase 1 phonics, this term focusing on Rhythm and Rhyme
- We will continue to share lots of stories, in small groups and as a whole class
- We will use the pictures in books to talk about and discuss what is happening in the story
- We will encourage the children to have a go at writing their name



## Understanding the World

- We will be remembering and talking about significant events in the children's own experience
- We will be exploring materials with different properties and talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice
- In RE we will be talking about God's Creation and the World we live in

## Expressive Arts and Design

- The children will have the opportunity to engage in role play and small world activities
- The children will be able to explore a range of craft activities, including printing and box modelling
- The children will explore colour, colour mixing and selecting a colour for a purpose



## Maths

- We will be counting different amounts of objects and beginning to compare quantities
- We will be developing fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually. This is called subitising
- We will be making comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity

