



Welcome back to the spring term and wishing you a happy new year!

We wanted to update you on a few things relevant to this term.

### Phonics:

We are well into our phonics scheme and the children are doing really well learning all the alphabet sounds and they will now start to learn digraphs. Digraphs and Trigraphs are sounds that are represented by two or 3 letters (eg: sh, oa, igh) and the children will need to spot the letters together when reading to identify the sound. This is the next step in their reading but it can be a tricky one and therefore soon the scheme will change from several sounds a week to one new sound a week to give the children time to master each one. We assess the children often and if we feel your child would benefit from revisiting previous books, sounds or skills we may include these in their book bags for them to practise at home. Please do not panic if this happens. Reading success depends on building skills in small steps. If your child needs to revisit a step before moving on this is fine, we just need to support them by practising little and often. Remember, all children are different and develop at different rates.

### Storytelling:

This term we are focussing on the love of stories with our topic 'Once upon a Time', where we will be reading familiar stories to encourage oral retelling, and also learning some new traditional tales from other cultures. (See overleaf for details of our curriculum this term). You can support your child in this by reading lots of favourite stories at home and encouraging them to retell the story in their own words. This helps them with language structure and vocabulary development.

### Seesaw Observations:

We use Seesaw for our own internal assessments and observations of the children. We also utilised this as a communication tool to help you see what your child was doing on entry to school to enable you to discuss their day with them. As the year moves on we do tend to use this less as we have different methods of recording their progress. Fewer observations does not mean they're not busy all day – we can assure you they are always on the go and learning lots!

Kind Regards The Reception Team

## OUR TOPICS

Once Upon a Time

Traditional tales and familiar stories

Colour Mixing

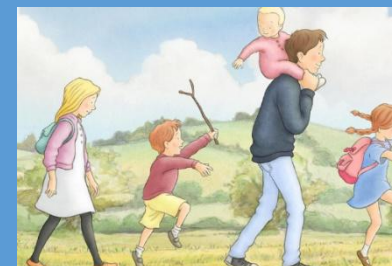
Materials and their properties

Who did Jesus spend time with?

Keeping ourselves safe

Alive in 5 & Growing 6,7,&8 in maths

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



## Physical Development

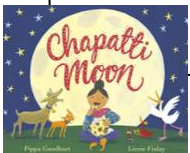
- We will continue to develop our fine motor skills through handwriting practise and fine motor exercises in our play.
- We will continue to develop our scissor skills
- In PE we are learning to balance, jump, climb and travel, developing muscle strength and stability



## Literacy

We use a different book each week to base our learning around. These link to our topic.

- We will start to learn digraphs and trigraphs and continue to learn to read and write more 'tricky words'
- We will continue to read books that match the sounds we have been taught to practise and consolidate our reading skills
- We will start to apply our sounds in our writing – writing phonetically plausible attempts independently.



This Term our topic is:



# Once Upon a Time

We are learning all about traditional tales, familiar stories and traditional tales from another culture

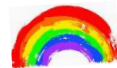
## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- We are having a visit from the Life Education Tent (SCARF) where we will be learning that there is mental as well as physical health and what we can do to maintain or improve our health.
- We will be trying out new activities and developing our independence.
- We will be continuing to think about the feelings of others

## Understanding the World

- In Science we are learning about materials, naming different materials, discussing the different vocabulary to describe them and also identifying their 'properties'
- We are also learning about the season Winter and looking at the changes in the season
- In RE we follow the Guildford Dioces planning and are exploring 'Specialness' through reading the stories about Jesus spending time with people.
- We are exploring India through learning some Indian traditional tales

## Expressive Arts and Design



- We are exploring colour and colour mixing
- We are exploring being imaginative through role play and using familiar stories to influence our role play language and narratives.



## Communication and Language

- We will be learning familiar stories and identifying the repeated refrains.
- We will practise retelling familiar stories using picture prompts to expand our vocabulary and sequencing skills.
- We will identify 'interesting' language when reading stories and try to use this in our role play and then writing or retelling of stories.



## Maths

We follow 'White Rose Maths' scheme of work and also use the 'Numberblocks' resources from NCTEM

This term's topic is 'Alive in 5' and 'Growing 6,7,8' and will cover;

- Concept of Zero
- Composition and comparison of numbers to 5
- Comparison of mass and capacity
- 6,7 &8 Making pairs and combining groups
- Length and height
- Time

