

Foundation Stage News

January 6th 2023



Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all our Reception families. We hope you have all had a very happy and healthy Christmas holiday. Thank you from us all for all your kind messages and gifts at the end of last term. It has been a really great first full week back to school and wonderful to see the children so happy and settled...it looks like many have been doing some growing over the holidays too!

Our learning this term



Our theme for learning this half term is 'Traditional Tales'. Please have a look online at our Spring Half Termly Overview which outlines the learning we will cover through these traditional tales. There is also a new 'collectable' to share this learning simply with your child. Over the course of the half term, we hope to immerse your child in the language of storytelling and to help them to develop a sense of the ways that stories are structured. These are very important early story writing skills.

We will be reading a range of different traditional tales, however we will be specifically focusing on the following stories each week: The Little Red Hen, The Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and The Enormous Turnip.

Phonics and reading



The children have now all been taught the Set One Speed Sounds (these are all the sounds in their little green speed sound book in their book bags). We have assessed their phonic knowledge this week and have organised them into groups for their phonics session according to their current reading level. All staff in Reception, Year One and Year Two are trained to deliver the Read Write Inc. session at different levels and so your child will be working with one of these adults according to their reading level. Links to the Read Write Inc. practise videos will continue to be sent home to you either with this newsletter or directly from the Year One or Year Two team. If you have not received a link, please let us know as soon as possible so we can sort this out for you. Please do remember to write a quick note in your child's reading diary each week to let us know how they are getting on at home.

Book Bags and toys



We are now teaching the children to access their book bags independently during the day when needed therefore we need to make this as easy for them as possible. We do prefer them to have a book bag in class rather than a rucksack in order that they can follow the same system as their peers.

We are noticing that many children are bringing toys to school in their bookbags which is making it very difficult to store them neatly in class. The toys can also be quite a distraction to learning and are at risk of getting lost or damaged in school.

We do understand that one or two children may still need a comfort toy/object in school and if this is the case, please let us know so we can do our best to keep it safe in school. To help us with this, please ensure it is named and is not too bulky in their book bag. Many thanks for your support with this.

Parent consultations



Now that the children are settled into school life and learning, we would like to invite you to attend a parent consultation in school on one of the following three dates: Monday 23rd January, Wednesday 25th January or Thursday 26th January. This will be a 10 minute slot (between 3.30pm and 5pm) and we will do our very best to keep to time so that you are not waiting too long!

You will be able to book your appointment with us online using our 'eSchools' system. Bookings online will go live at 9am on Monday 9th January and will close at 9am on Sunday 22nd January. Next week you will receive details of how you can log on to 'eSchools' to book your appointment.

Toothbrushing



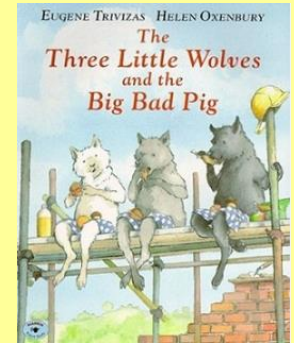
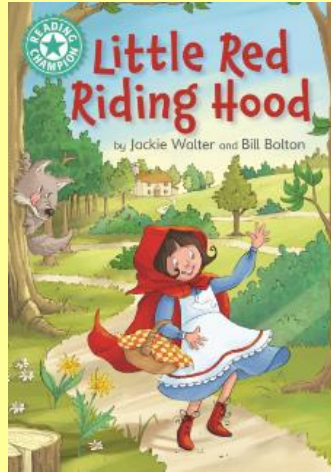
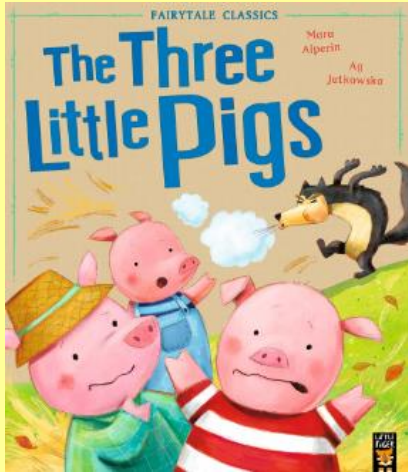
Oral health has been included in our new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework because good oral habits need to be formed from the earliest age. Tooth decay is largely preventable, but it is still a worrying problem among young children in Torbay and parts of Devon.

Our school has been selected by NHS England and NHS Improvement to participate in a pilot supervised toothbrushing programme. The programme will be managed by Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust's Special Care Dental Service. Mrs Heatley has received additional training from the Special Care Dental Service in order to supervise the children to brush their teeth in school.

Prior to starting this programme, we need your consent for your child to participate. Next week we will be sending home more detailed information for you as well as a consent form for you to sign and return to us.

Books we shared this week

This week we have enjoyed a collection of traditional tales with a common theme...the Big Bad Wolf! After reading an alternative fairy tale about the 'Big Bad Pig', the children had lots of fun thinking of their own 'big' and 'bad' character and gave super descriptions of their actions e.g. The big bad witch who turned people into frogs.



'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig'
by Eugene Trivizas and Helen Oxenbury

Songs we have sung this week

This half term in our musical learning we are going to be introducing the children to the musical elements e.g. pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo. As a vehicle for this learning, and linked to our theme of Traditional Tales, we will be using the BBC Schools Music resource 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The story is broken down into weekly episodes with a linked animation and song to learn. This week we began Part I of the programme which included learning the song 'I Love Red'. You can access this session at home following this link: [I Love Red](#)



Musical terms

- **Pulse/beat:** like a heartbeat, a steady beat underlying the music
- **Rhythm:** pattern of sound
- **Pitch:** high sounds, low sounds
- **Structure:** how a piece of music/song is built up, eg verse-chorus-verse-chorus
- **Dynamics:** loud, quiet, getting louder, getting quieter
- **Timbre:** the character of a sound, eg smooth sound, spikey sound, scratchy sound
- **Texture:** layers in the music, eg one sound or several sounds
- **Tempo:** speed
- **Melodic shape:** this is a little like the outline of the song or piece of music, picture a line that goes up steeply when the **melody** suddenly jumps to a much higher sound, or that goes down slowly when the **melody** gently falls. This "line" gives the **contour** or **shape** of the **melodic** line
- **Genre:** the type of music, eg pop, jazz, folk, classical

Christmas Reflection

The children had such a wonderful time in school during December. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Craft Afternoon getting involved in the festive activities – we hope you took away some beautiful decorations which you can keep for many years to come. We want to say an enormous well done to the children for their amazing performance at our Reception Christmas Show – they had worked so hard to learn their songs and dances and were super excited to share this with you all.



A special star to remember Frazer

This Christmas we had a very special star to put at the top of our Christmas tree in school. Thank you to Mr Wilton who kindly lent us a star that his son Frazer had made when he was in Early Years. Sadly, Frazer passed away earlier this year but having his star in school helped staff to keep him in their hearts and minds. The children were told it was a gift from a special little boy who had been in Reception before them.