

# Foundation Stage News

January 20<sup>th</sup> 2023



## Run, run, as fast as you can!

What an adventure we had in Reception last week. On Monday, the children enjoyed listening to the story of The Gingerbread Man and had great fun singing his well-known song "Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man". It was so delightful to see how invested the children were as we followed the story of this little biscuit character – one of our little ones covered her eyes and said "I can't look!" as we turned the page to discover the fate of the gingerbread man when he climbed onto the fox's nose! The story even led us into the realms of science as we discussed and predicted what might happen when a biscuit falls into water – one child told us that surprisingly a biscuit won't dissolve in milk. Perhaps at home you could explore this with your little one, dipping a biscuit into different liquids (warm, cold, thick, runny) to see what happens and encourage them to explain why.



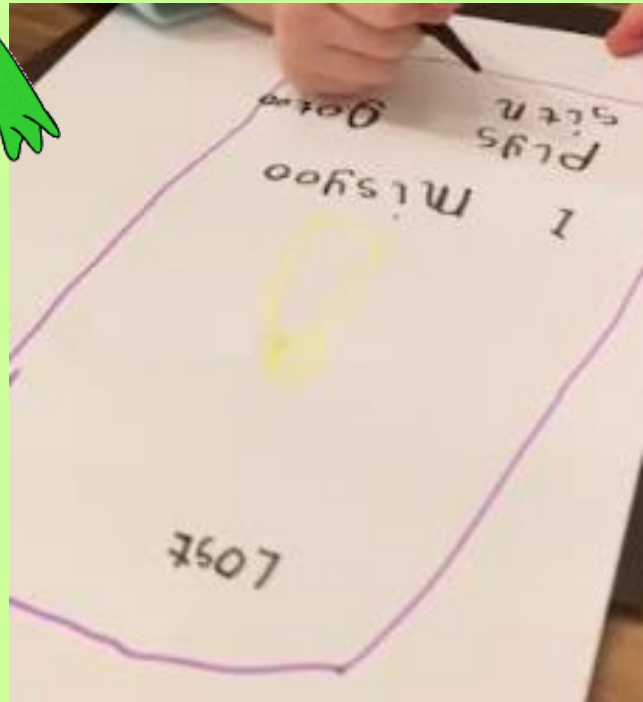
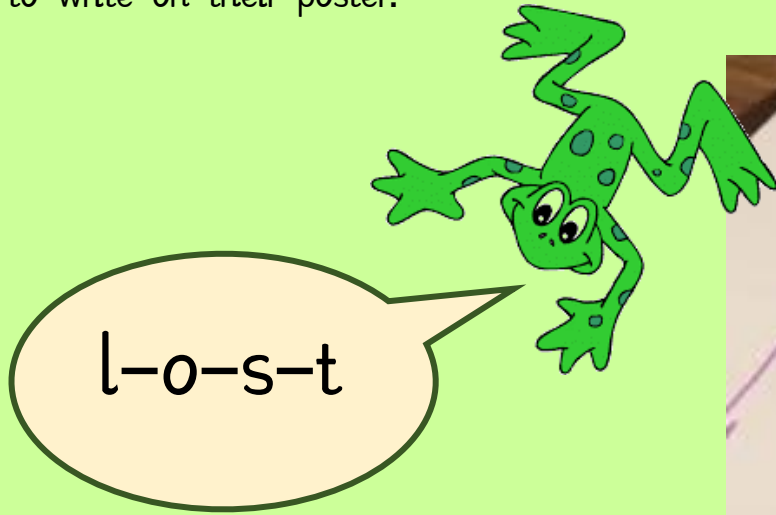
On Tuesday and Wednesday the children had a baking session with Mrs Ireland and were asked to carefully follow her instructions for rolling the dough, cutting the shape and baking the biscuit. The children practised using pronoun words accurately when describing their little biscuit characters as they cut and decorated them (she, her, he, him, they).

# Lost!

The children are learning to use their growing phonic knowledge to read and write and whenever we can, we find exciting and meaningful opportunities in our day for writing so as to engage the children and help them to see the real purpose for this skill.

As fate would have it, the children laid their gingerbread biscuits to cool on the window shelf and whilst they were out for lunch, their biscuits ran away!!! A wonderful discussion began...Where might they have gone? What might they be doing? Are they safe? How will we get them back again?

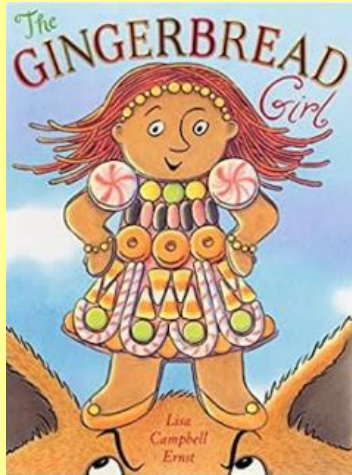
The children decided to create their own 'Lost!' posters and, just like Fred our Read Write Inc. frog, they listened carefully to the sounds in each of the words they wanted to write on their poster.



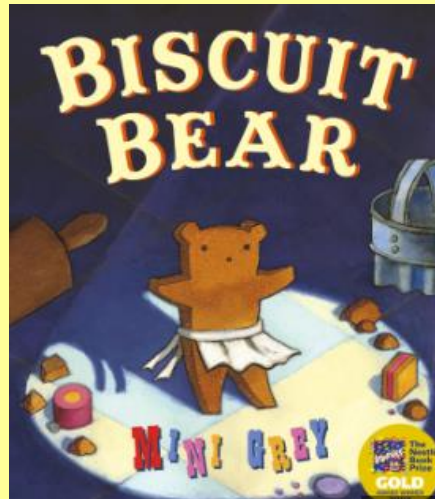
Thanks to our super posters (which the children displayed around the school) the teachers knew to 'keep an eye out' for our cheeky biscuits. Thankfully on Friday, just in time for the weekend, Mrs Essam dropped by with a BIG box full of biscuits and a funny story of how she had found them hiding in her Treehouse room! We couldn't believe our ears when she told us what they had got up to in there. Ask your child to tell you more!

## Books we shared this week

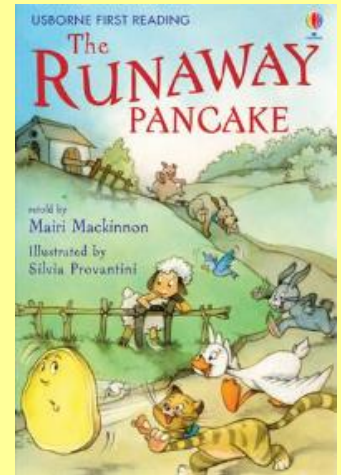
After listening to the story of the Gingerbread Man at the start of the week, we went on to share some alternative versions, either with a similar biscuit character or with a similar structure. Again this week, the children are learning that it is possible to take a well-known story and make small changes to form a new story of their own, borrowing story ideas, words or phrases.



'The Gingerbread Girl'  
by Lisa Campbell Ernst



'Biscuit Bear'  
by Mini Grey



'The Runaway Pancake'  
retold by Mairi Mackinnon

## Songs we have sung this week

This half term in our musical learning, we are introducing the children to the musical elements of pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tempo. As a vehicle for this learning, and linked to our theme of Traditional Tales, we are 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 learned two new songs about the story and its characters. Please follow the links below to enjoy singing these songs with your child at home.



[Wolfie Blues](#)



[Let's make a cake for grandma](#)

# Parent consultations



Just a reminder that we are holding parent consultations this coming week after school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30pm until 5pm. Please do let us know if you are having any difficulties booking this appointment and we will do our best to help. We look forward to meeting you and celebrating your child's first full term in school.

## Toothbrushing



You will now have received a letter regarding our toothbrushing programme in Reception. If you would like your child to take part in this important daily health routine in school, please do return your consent form to us by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Your child will only be able to participate if we have your written permission.

## Head lice

A few parents have kindly informed us that they have noticed head lice in their child's hair recently and have promptly treated this to avoid them passing them on to others.

If you would like further advice on how to manage head lice at home, please follow this link to [NHS information](#).



## A date for your diary!



We are so proud of how well the children are doing with their phonics learning and cannot thank you enough for the efforts you are putting in at home to help them to practise reading their new sounds and words. A few minutes a day after school or first thing in the morning makes all the difference.

If you would like to know a little more about how we teach your child to read and spell in school, or would like some help or advice regarding how best to support your child at home, we would like to invite you to attend a 'Read Write Inc.' information session at school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 9:15am. We hope to make it interactive and to give you plenty of opportunity to ask us any questions you need to.

This session will be held in the Woodland Den building (at the top of the steps just opposite our Foundation building. Mrs Turner, our Assistant Head and Reading/Read Write Inc. Lead, and Miss Watkinson look forward to seeing you.

# Home learning fun

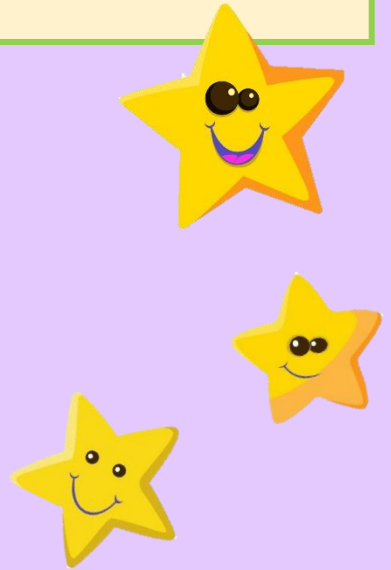
We love to see what your child has been learning at home with you. It really helps us build such a full picture of their knowledge and experiences. Thank you for the photos and messages sent in so far. We thought you would enjoy them as much as we have.



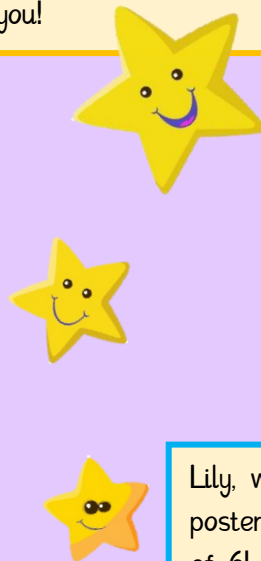
Isabella you are so aspirational, working to achieve your 'Storyteller's Badge' from Rainbows. We love how you changed the Little Red Hen story, thinking of your own characters and events. We can see what a 'Think-a-docus' you are being in the photo, using your Fred Talk to hear the sounds in the words and using mummy's Fred fingers to pinch each sound you can hear before you write.

Isabella's Fractured Fairy Tale  
The Little Red Hen

Element of the Story	What it is now	What I would like to change it to
Main Character	Hen <sup>hen</sup> Hen	dog
Colour of Main Character	red <sup>red</sup> red	pink <sup>pink</sup> pink
Second character	cat <sup>cat</sup> cat	pig <sup>pig</sup> pig



Ella, what great reading and spelling. You are clearly having a super-fun time playing scrabble with your family. We can see what a Stick-a-saurus you have been, not giving up until you have made lots of words. Well done you!



Lily, we just had to show another of your Lost poster which you created at home. This was one of 6! What a Try-a-tops you are being, listening carefully for the sounds you could hear.

'Please go to St Margaret's'

# Read Write Inc. home learning:



Please follow the links below to access your child's Read Write Inc. home learning. These links have been chosen either to support them to embed new learning or to revise previous learning where our assessments show they are not yet secure.

Daily practise will really make all the difference to the progress your child makes in developing their reading and spelling skills this year. Please do come and have a chat with us if you feel the home learning needs adjusting.

In their Ditty speed sound sessions this week the children learned to read the Special Friends sounds: ll, ss, ff and ck. There are unfortunately not any videos for these sounds on the Read Write Inc. portal however please do write these sounds onto your own cards and ask your child to practise reading them at home. Remember, as they are 'Special Friends' sounds, they are two letters making only one sound.

[Word Time Reading 1.7-1](#) (Using the technique 'Fred Talk...Read the Word')

[Word Time Spelling 1.7-1](#) (Using Fred Fingers)

We hope you have had a lovely weekend!