

Foundation Stage News

January 19th 2024



Run, run, as fast as you can!

What an adventure we had in Reception this 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! 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 even suggested a follow up to the investigation and said that we should put the soggy biscuit in the fridge and then it will go hard again! Perhaps at home you could explore this further with your little one, dipping a biscuit into different liquids (warm, cold, thick, runny) to see what happens and encourage them to explain why.



We even created our own traps using the big blocks to try and catch the runaway gingerbread men! The children decided to put some food inside their trap to try and attract the gingerbread men!



On Tuesday and Wednesday the children had a baking session with Miss Price 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!

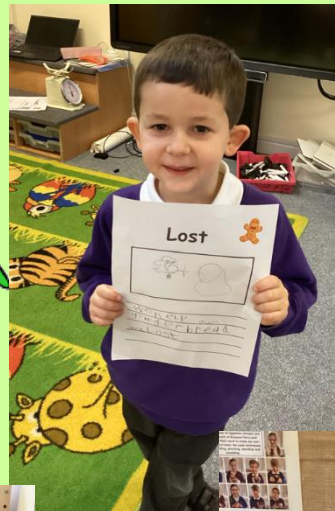
The children are learning to use their growing phonic knowledge to read and write and whenever we can, we find exciting and meaningful opportunities in our day for writing so as to engage the children and help them to see the real purpose for this skill.

As fate would have it, the children laid their gingerbread biscuits to cool on the window shelf and when they came to school the next day, 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.



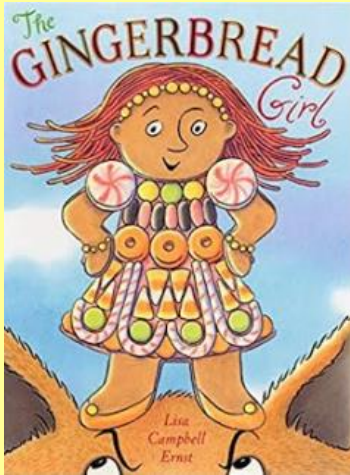
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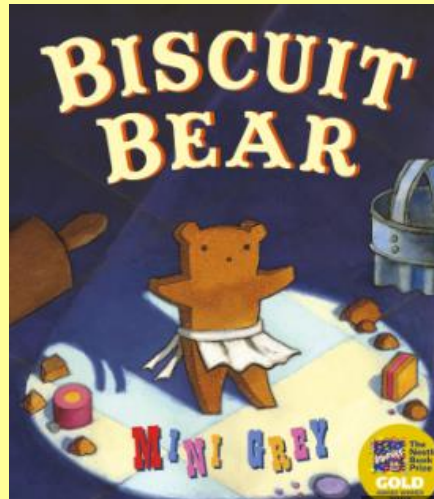
Thanks to our super posters (which the children displayed around the school) the teachers knew to 'keep an eye out' for our cheeky biscuits. Thankfully on Wednesday Mrs Newman dropped by with a BIG box full of biscuits and a funny story of how she had been chasing them around school all night! We couldn't 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

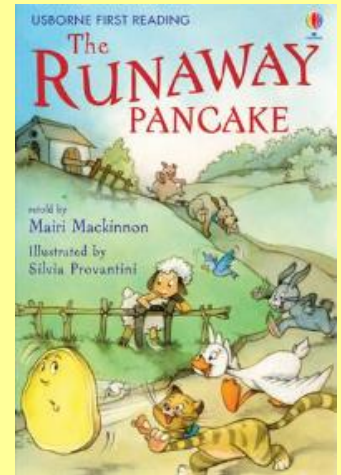
After listening to the story of the Gingerbread Man at the start of the week, we went on to share some alternative versions, either with a similar biscuit character or with a similar structure. Again this week, the children are learning that it is possible to take a well-known story and make small changes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



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

Wellies Reminder



Please could we remind you to make sure your child has a pair of wellies in school so that they are able to take part in outdoor play during this wet, winter weather. Thank you very much!



Chatter Bag

We are busy working with the children to help them develop their speaking and listening skills at the moment. Communication and language skills are crucial for every child's development and form the foundations for all other areas of learning.

At school, we have been looking into playful ways to encourage the children to use their language skills. We know that children love to speak about their own experiences and about objects of interest to them, so we have decided to send the children home with something called a '**Chatter Bag**.' When it is your child's turn to bring the 'Chatter Bag' home please help them to put a special item in it from home to bring in to school the next day and talk about. The main purpose of the Chatter Bag is to promote conversations and build vocabulary for children in a way that interests them. The item should be familiar and something they are excited to talk about. We ask that they only bring in something that can fit in the bag and **only 1 or 2** items. Please **do not** send in anything too valuable! The item doesn't have to be a toy, it may be a photograph, book or perhaps an item found out and about on a walk. The important thing is that your child really wants to share it with the group.

Please could you also spend a little time and help your child feel confident to talk about their chosen item. Here are some ways you can help them prepare:

- Encourage them to speak clearly to the listener
- Help them to describe their item and begin to extend their sentences e.g. I like this because....
- Help them make links to their own experiences e.g. I got this at the....

We will also be working on the children's questioning skills during this 'show and tell' time. We will encourage the children who are listening to ask questions about the item using the question words: **What? How? Where? Who? Why? When?**

The first 'Chatter Bag's' will start coming home tomorrow and we will send one home with a few children each day. Please can we ask that the 'chatter bags' are brought back into school the **very next day** so that we can send them home with another child that day. We know the children will be really eager and excited to take part so we would really appreciate your support with this.

Read Write Inc. home learning:



Please follow the links below to access your child's Read Write Inc. home learning. We have 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.

Special friends: [Special](#) friends 'ee' [Special](#) friends 'ay'

Special Friends Fred Talk: [Session 1](#)

Our Learning Gallery



The children have loved exploring the ice this week! On Tuesday we froze some toys in the water tray and they thoroughly enjoyed finding out how to rescue them.



Look at our new Reading Garden – our reading corner has had a makeover and the children have really enjoyed sharing stories with their friends in here this week.



Jackson Pollock

This week the children have been introduced to the artist Jackson Pollock. They have enjoyed looking at examples of his work and then creating their own pieces of art inspired by his creations. He was very well known for his drip style painting technique. The children have loved getting messy with the paint – dipping string in paint and placing it on the paper, splatting paint using paintbrushes. The process has been so much fun and they have created some really effective pieces!

“Because a painting has the life of it’s own, I try to let it come through” Jackson Pollock.



We hope you have had a lovely weekend!