

Welcome to Reception!

Our first day at school has been wonderful and we are absolutely delighted about how quickly everyone is settling in. The children are learning the names and faces of their new friends (and seeing some familiar faces too!) as well as adapting to new routines and life at 'big school'. We will post some pictures of our first week on the school website, so please keep an eye out for them.

Traditional Tales

This term our learning focus is all about fairy tales. In literacy, we will be immersing ourselves in a range of different traditional tales and rhymes as we journey through imaginary lands and the world of 'once upon a time...'. Please see the plan below that outlines our learning journey for this half term.



PE

P.E lessons normally take place on a Wednesday with Mrs Cotton but these sessions may be moved to accommodate the weather or visiting coaches so it is important to keep a P.E kit in school at all times. A P.E kit, containing both indoor and outdoor clothing, should include; a white t-shirt, black shorts, dark jogging bottoms and a jumper for if it is cold and either plimsolls or trainers, which should all be clearly labelled to avoid getting lost.

This week's Home Task

As a way of getting to know the children a little better we thought it would be a good idea for each child to make a 'Special Book of Me' that they could share with the rest of the class. In your child's book bag, you will find an A4 booklet that your child can fill with information, drawings, pictures and photographs etc. of people or things that are important to them. You may choose to talk about family, friends, pets, things they like or dislike, in addition to anything else you wish to include. This should be completed and returned to school by **Wednesday 27th September** so that they can share their special book with the rest of the class.

Reading

Your child will have already brought home their first library book, this is a story chosen by your child for you to read to them to develop their love of reading and storytelling. Today your child will receive a book a reading book without words. Please look at this together and encourage them to identify characters or objects they can see in the pictures and allow them the opportunity to invent their own stories. This will help to develop their reading comprehension skills which is a vital skill for understanding stories and their structure. Once we have completed our phonics assessments, your child will receive a book that has words that have been carefully matched to our phonics teaching. **Please listen to your child read at least three times a week to establish a reading routine.** Once you have listened to your child read their book, **please record a comment in their reading record** so we can track their progress and change their books. Books will be changed twice a week, usually on a Tuesday and Friday. **If there is no comment in their book we will assume they haven't read it and it will not be changed.** Also, please feel free to write any other comments or questions in their reading record as this a great way to establish home-school communication. If your child chooses to read one of their favourite books from home, rather than their reading book, this too can be recorded as a record of all their reading experiences.

Finally, please remember that you are more than welcome to talk over any worries or questions you have – however small. Any member of staff will be happy to answer your questions and you can always pick up the phone and leave a message with the school office.

Thank you for all your support, Mrs Cotton and Mrs Sampson

Traditional Tales



The Big Idea:

Once upon a time, in a far away land, Goldilocks is busy preparing to celebrate her 7th birthday! We will set off together on an exciting journey through the land of fairy tales as we make our way to join in with the celebrations. We will be meeting a whole host of familiar characters, who may all need a helping hand and provide a few dramas along the way... I have no doubt that the party will be well worth the journey!

As language specialists

We will be immersing ourselves in a range of different traditional tales and rhymes on our journey. We'll meet Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Little Red Riding Hood who will all help us retell and map a story. Our early writing skills will be full of party invitations, story mountains and *Once Upon a Times*. Early phonics skills will start each day as we begin our phonics programme.

As mathematicians

We will be counting, recognising and learning to write numbers up to 10. We will be exploring the patterns of numbers and linking these to the written numeral. We will also be exploring the relationship between digits, finding one more or one less than a given number. There will be plenty of mathematical reasoning with numbers as we prepare for the party. We will be counting, ordering and subitising (looking at dice patterns). Jack's Magic beans will help us solve practical addition and subtraction problems.

To develop personal and social skills...

We will be building positive relationships with our new friends in the class and teachers through activity and play. We will get used to the routine of a Willow Brook day and develop confidence in whole school sessions and playtimes. We will be encouraged to talk in group sessions and to the class, speaking positively about our interests and experiences.

To develop Communication and Language skills...

We will be talking fairy tales and reciting rhymes every day! We will read, retell and act different variations of each story and see how modern writers have twisted and changed characters and plot. We will take part in thoughtful circle times and listen carefully to our friends. We will use new key vocabulary and storytellers' language to retell a story through drama and role play too!

In our physical development...

We will be practising holding a pencil in a tripod grip, trying hard to write our name and simple words and sentences by ourselves, following the correct letter formation. We will be learning how to manage our own self-care with independence, using the toilets and showing good basic hygiene skills. In lessons we will be immersing ourselves in the world of dance. We will be exploring how we can move our bodies in time to music! To help with this we will be getting ourselves dressed and undressed into our P.E. kits. Activity afternoons will provide lots of opportunities for exercise on the bikes and scooters.

To develop our understanding of the world...

We will be exploring the natural world as we prepare for the changes that come in Autumn. We will talk about our own families and our roles within our school and community. We will be exploring our Forest School area and using our senses to learn more about the natural world. This provides opportunities for the children to explore, climb, build and create at their own pace and following their own interests.

As expressive artists and designers...

We will be acting out traditional tales and creating pictures and paintings to bring imaginative scenes to life. We will explore moving with music in PE and learn new songs and rhymes in our singing lessons. We will be making props for our journey through our stories and there will be crowns and decorations to make for the party at the Palace!