January 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

This term our topic is 'Once Upon a Time'. The children really enjoy this topic as they will have lots of opportunities to retell stories in a variety of ways through puppets, role play and story maps. On the other side of this sheet you will find a topic web, which shows the main areas of learning the children will experience during the term. We hope that you will find it interesting and a useful starting point for supporting your child in their learning.

To enrich our topic this term we are very pleased to have a theatre company visiting to retell favourite fairy stories. In order to make the theatre company visit possible we have to ask for a voluntary contribution to help towards the cost and more information about this will sent in a separate letter.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We continue to welcome parent helpers in school, so if you are able to help, please speak to your class teacher. The children love adult visitors and this does not have to be on a weekly basis, just when you have some spare time.

Please continue to read and share books as it benefits your child to read regularly. We would appreciate a comment or initials to show that your child has read at home. Keep practising words on the book marks; it is very encouraging to hear the children read so many words during our shared reading sessions.

Children will need their PE kits in school all week as we will be enjoying Bee-fit sessions this term. It is very important, for health and safety reasons that children are dressed correctly. Please remember to check that your child's name is still visible on their PE kit so that we can try to reunite any lost items with their owner!

We will be discussing old and new toys with the children as part of our history curriculum. Steyning museum will be visiting us with a range of artefacts for the children to observe and handle.

Mrs Quigley, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Naish.

Understanding of the world

- Looking at programmable floor computers and planning journeys for them.
- Maps related to fairy stories
- Cooking birthday cakes
- Visiting allotments and interviewing gardeners
- Observing and handling old toys
- Planting beans and watching their growth.
- Adding significant events to our class timeline.

Expressive Arts and design

- 3D papier-mâché three bears bowls
- Observational drawings of bears.
- Chinese New year dragon dances
- Learning new songs and joining in with action rhymes
- Junk modelling – giants castle, bear cottage.
- Focus Artist- Monet
- Playing a range of percussion instruments

Physical development

- Dance – moving like characters from Fairy Stories.
- Bee-fit activities, taking part in small team games using a range of small equipment
- Making bird feeders
- Digging and preparing the garden for planting beans.
- Constructing large structures e.g. castles
- Making a simple running stitch

Once upon a time

Communication Language and Literacy

- Role play, puppet theatres, re-telling fairy stories
- Developing awareness of story vocabulary, settings and characters
- Writing for different purposes – story maps, speech bubbles and lists.
- Writing simple sentences with a capital letter, finger space and a full stop.
- Daily phonics and word building activities
- Taking part in National bird watch week, reading and recording information.
- Sequencing events from stories and using vocabulary related to time.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Celebrating key Christian events, such as Candlemas, Shrove Tuesday and Easter.
- Learning about different cultures, celebrating Chinese New Year.
- Carpet time - Resolving conflicts, sharing jobs.
- Working as part of a group by sharing and listening to each other's ideas.
- Buddy reading

Mathematical development

- Counting fairy tale objects and noticing patterns, such as odd and even numbers.
- Measuring quantities to make porridge.
- Collecting data for national bird watch week.
- Ordering numbered leaves on a bean stalk.
- 3D shape hunt.
- Number bonds to 5
- Repeating patterns