

THANK YOU!



Thank you all for your continued support in term 2. The lead up to Christmas has been exciting and busy and we so appreciate everyone who has provided FANTASTIC Christmas play costumes for "The Sleepy Shepherd", bought in recycling from our junk modelling and creative areas and come in to class to help out...PHEW! What a busy term!

We would like to wish you all a very, very Merry (and relaxing!) Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WELCOME!



We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Woodward to our EYFS team who will be teaching Squirrel class from Term 3 onwards. Mrs Woodward is very excited to be teaching the Squirrels and has already come in to meet them a few times at the end of Term 2. Mrs Brown will be working closely with Mrs Woodward to ensure a smooth transition and still pop in to see the Squirrels lots and see how they are doing!

Dates for the Diary:

- Monday 7th January: **INSET** day
- Wednesday 16th January: National Dental Survey
- Friday 18th January: 9am Parent Forum
- Wednesday 23rd January (PM): Book Time Reading afternoon – session for you to work with your child and get a free book! More details will be sent out from at the start of Term 3!
- Thursday 14th February: 3.30pm Parent Forum
- Thursday 14th March: 6pm Parent Forum



EYFS Newsletter: Squirrels and Hedgehogs

Term 3: Once upon a time...



We cannot believe that we are heading towards Term 3! This academic year is flying by! We had such a fantastic Term 2 based on 'Teddy Adventures' and we are hoping for another great term ahead with the theme 'Once upon a time'. This should get our imaginative juices flowing with everything to do with 'Fairy Tales'; faraway castles, magic happenings, evil baddies and (hopefully!) a happy ending!

Mrs Woodward, Mrs Weeks, Mrs Leach, Mrs Millard and Mrs Savage

Phonics:

This term, we shall be continuing to learn Phase 3 letters and sounds. This phase is mostly made up of digraphs so we will carry on learning four new sounds a week and review them on a Friday (when the sound sheets are sent home). There will also be some additional tricky words for the children to learn. The children will now be beginning to explore writing words, captions and sentences. As the term progresses we will start using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.



English:

This term we will be linking our reading and writing to our topic; 'Once upon a time...'. We will be sharing the fairy tales 'The Princess in the Tower' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. We will hope to get lots of speaking and listening observations from this topic such as joining in with repeated refrains, using language to recreate roles and experiences and the ability to follow a story with pictures or props. It would be great if you could support your child at home with this topic by sharing lots of fairy tales and talking about the main features of them such as goodies and baddies, helpful wizards or fairies and happy endings.



Maths:

Our new topic lends itself very well to lots of mathematical concepts. When reading the Princess in the Tower we will be learning about length and height, comparing towers and turrets on castles. We were really pleased that the Gingerbread Man could combine two of our favourite things – decorating and Smarties (for buttons)! We will focus on measures such as size and weight and problem solving such as doubling, halving and sharing.

An Early Learning Goal for the **end** of Reception is to count reliably from 1 to 20, placing each number in order and saying which number is 1 more or 1 less. In light of this, we shall be focusing on teen numbers and what happens past 10. Any support with teen numbers at home would really help.



ELLI Characters:

In class we have ELLI characters to help us understand learning behaviours. Referring to these characters at home as well as in school would be really helpful!

- Worker Bee: knows when to work on his/her own and when to work as a team
- Creative Unicorn: uses his/her imagination
- Mighty Mouse: shows bravery tackling new things
- Empathy Dog: shows concern for others
- Curious Cat: asks questions to find out more
- Resilient Tortoise: shows perseverance

