

Topic Overview – Year A, Spring 1



Once Upon A Time

"Grandma, what big teeth you've got!"

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down."

"Who's been eating my porridge?"

"You shall go to the ball!"

"Who's that tripping over my bridge?"

Can you spot these familiar stories? Let's have fun learning them together. I wonder what characters we will meet along the way!

Communication and Language (Speaking and Listening)

Language is a key focus for us in Preschool. Our 'Wonderful Words', (new vocabulary from books we read), provide us with a starting point for nurturing new and exciting vocabulary. When children are accessing our stimulating provision, we encourage the use of simple sentences with 3-4 words and provide a strong model to develop this. We also develop the children's ability to ask questions and give a running commentary of what they are doing, particularly praising the use of new 'Wonderful Words'. Our topic themed role play areas and/or small world areas encourage interaction with others in small groups alongside our activities and puppet play areas. Snack time is an ideal opportunity for language development – asking questions and developing manners such as please and thank you.

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

The modelling of reading is key, so in this Spring Term there is a focus on showing the children how we can predict what could happen next in a book and continue to develop a love of listening to stories and learning facts from non-fiction books. The children are encouraged to repeat words and phrases from stories that are read to them. We will introduce alliteration and ask them to point out when they hear it at a basic level. Writing at this stage is trying to copy some of the letters of their name and tailoring this to each child as an individual. For those ready and showing an interest, we support them to develop letter formation in line with our teaching of Phonics too. We ask the children to identify what their paintings and drawings mean, and when they try writing, to say what their marks stand for/mean. Mark making is still a significant aspect of Pre-school at this stage, for many children, making vertical and horizontal lines, as well as circular shapes, are the expected method of recording.

Maths (Number and Shape, Space and Measure)

Singing number songs and listening to number stories happens continuously throughout the day. Adults model mathematical vocabulary such as one, two, three, more, less, lots and fewer, which helps the children to understand and apply their new maths based 'Wonderful Words' in both independent play and adult led activities. Counting of things is a key focus in this term and we work hard to develop a sense of number 0 – 5. We look at naming sets up to 5, subitising 0 – 3 (and 5 where appropriate), recognising numbers 0 – 5, ordering numbers, counting forwards and backwards to 5 and begin addition/number bonds 0 – 5. We draw awareness to shape properties and categorising them in size order using words such as 'smaller' or 'bigger' and 'shorter' or 'taller', and we develop further language surrounding weight as we make comparisons, as well as capacity. Awareness to shapes in the environment will continue, allowing children to access 2D and 3D shapes which are then described with mathematical vocabulary to support their understanding. We use White Rose for much of our guided Maths teaching, but Maths is evident across the setting and practitioners respond to what maths occurs within the children's play.

Personal Development (P.S.H.E.)

Our focus in PSHE will be celebrating differences! The children will learn that everyone is different, to include others when they play, to know how to help someone if they are upset and how to problem solve.

Understanding the World (Geography, History, Science and Computing)

Our Science focus will be on 'Materials and Seasonal Changes'. We will learn about different materials and why they are used to make things, using our senses to explore and describe them. We will investigate why we use different materials for clothing as the seasons change in various STEM challenges.

Later in the term we begin our new topic 'Plants'. We will ask: What do plants need to grow? Which plants do we eat? What are the parts of trees and plants?

We will talk about health and well-being. Key foci will include links to technology, particularly during Safer Internet Week, and self-awareness during Children's Mental Health Week.

Expressive Arts (Art and Music)

Singing and preforming songs is at the heart of our Pre-school musical experience. We teach a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs to support this. Some of these are planned into our learning and activities, but we also enjoy time daily picking our favourite nursery rhymes to sing at circle time, as well as throughout the day. Children have access to a range of percussion instruments, enabling them to become composers within the setting. We learn about a range of famous composers and musical artists through daily listening/appraising sessions, in which we discuss what we hear, notice and like. We use Charanga for weekly Music lessons; these topics are outlined in our Music planning. In Art, our first half term explores print using a range of materials, tools and techniques. We will experiment with colour, design, texture, form and function. We will be printing with different textures, looking at the differences between thick and thin prints, as well as long and short prints.

Physical Development (P.E.)

Both gross and fine motor skill development is key at this stage. Our 'Finger Gym' will provide many opportunities to manipulate objects such as pinching and posting objects. Movement skills will be developed through a variety of physical activities and parachute games, along with core strength development. A key skill we will work on developing this term is balancing on one leg and hopping. The children The children will be introduced to structured movement through the topics of 'Once upon a time' and 'Will you read me a story'. They will spend time learning basic of a PE lesson such as finding space, freezing on command, using and sharing equipment and working individually, with a partner and group. We have a specialist PE teacher joining us weekly to lead activities which will develop fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, skipping.

Religious Education (R.E.)

Special Books: We will be sharing and talking about our favourite books or books that are special to us, for example if they were a gift. We will also look at special books from different religions.

Celebrations: We will find out about the Christian celebrations of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Easter, as well as Chinese New Year, Holi and Ramadan.