

Year R Newsletter – Summer Term

What a great spring term in Reception. Your children have made so much progress and we've already learnt all our Reception phonics sounds. In Spring we enjoyed going to the cookery room to make our own pancakes as part of our Food Around the World topic! We really enjoyed exploring our people who help us topic with a doctor's surgery role play from Early LifeLab. We have been planting lots of different seeds including sunflowers and beans and are busy watching them continue to grow!



This half term -Summer 1: Once Upon a Time

This half term children will be reading a variety of fairytales alongside different versions of them. We'll talk about the Brother's Grimm as important figures from the past. We'll be learning to ask questions about stories and use some of the vocabulary we learn in our everyday conversations.

We will begin by taking a [trip to Manor House Farm](#) and exploring the effects of the changing seasons by observing the bluebells and learning about the different baby animals born at this time of year. We will read '[The Three Little Pigs](#)' and the alternative version '[The Three Little Dassies](#)' by [Jan Brett](#). We'll learn about 3D shapes and their properties and use 3D shapes to build houses; making design plans, deciding on shapes, and then testing their strength by attempting to blow them down! We'll learn to evaluate our creations and make improvements, culminating in our Builder's Curriculum Day.

Next, we will read '[The Three Billy Goats Gruff](#)' alongside '[The Three Armadillies Tuff](#)' by [Jackie Hopkins](#). We'll examine the story language common across all the fairytales including 'Once upon a time' and 'they all lived happily ever after'.

Finally, we'll read '[Little Red Riding Hood](#)' along with the version '[Little Roja Riding Hood](#)' by [Susan Middleton Elya](#). We'll look at the time period which the stories are written in and explore the use of technology in Susan Middleton Elya's version. We'll use Phase 3 phonics to write sentences describing the characters from the story, starting with a capital letter and ending with a full stop. We will also take a [trip to the library](#) to encourage our young readers to continue reading a range of story books at home.

Next half term – Summer 2: Make a Splash!

This half term children will explore the topic of water and we'll turn our new sandpit into a beach, encouraging children to build sandcastles, look for shells and explore rockpools. We'll then read 'At the beach' by Roland Harvey and write our own postcards. We'll learn how to edit our work by rereading our sentences to make sure they make sense before fixing any errors.

We will compare and contrast life on different islands, reading about other island nations and finding similarities and differences to the UK. We'll use non-fiction books such as 'Amazing Islands' by Sabrina Weiss and use Kerry Hyndman's intricately detailed illustrations to help deepen our understanding.

We'll read 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch' by Ronda and David Armitage and predict what will happen next in the story, writing our own endings.

We will read the story 'Sam who went to sea' by Phyllis Root then have a go building our own boats, exploring what materials we could use and then designing our boats before building them and testing them in the water. We will then see if our boats are able to carry cargo, and add counters to our boats, counting how many can fit before it sinks!

We will introduce the rekenrek (like an abacus) as another structured arrangement to support subitising beyond 5.

We'll finish the year by taking part in fun activities including Sports Day, watching the Year 6 end of year performance and having a water fight with our friends!

We have story time daily to enrich our curriculum with a wide range of vocabulary. This half term we will have lots of fiction and non-fiction stories available, including books about: the ocean, water, beaches, sea animals, islands, ships, pirates and mermaids!



Key Dates

- Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 20th May – Library Trip
- Friday 22nd May – INSET
- Monday 25th – 29th May – HALF TERM
- Thursday 18th June – Sports Day
- Friday 19th June - INSET
- Wednesday 1st July – Transition Day
- Wednesday 22nd July - Last Day of Reception! Happy Summer Holiday