

## Dormice Class Spring Term Newsletter

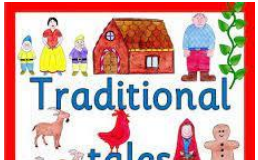


Welcome back to the Spring Term! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and enjoyed your family time. We are looking forward to getting back into our learning with our fabulous new topic "Once Upon a Time"!

### **PSED** Personal, Social and Emotion Development

In PSED we will be focussing on our own likes and dislikes, feelings and behaviour. This will all be introduced through themes and the traditional stories that we will be sharing and focussing on this term.

Alongside our theme of 'Once Upon A Time' we will be talking about New years' resolutions and learning some of the traditions associated with Chinese New Year.



### **Communication and Language**

We will be working hard this term to speak clearly to explain our ideas and give reasons for our decisions. The children will be learning lots of new vocabulary linked to our stories and will be learning to retell stories by using Talk4Writing strategies.

We will be learning lots of new information from books and singing a wide range of different songs and rhymes.

### **Mathematics**

This term we will be continuing our maths mastery journey. We will continue our explorations of numbers with a focus on numbers 6-10. We will look at different representations of each number and look at what we already know about it. We will learn about number bonds and use manipulatives to find different pairs of numbers that make 10. We will compare groups comparing different amounts of objects up to 10 and will then move on to learning number bonds to 10. We will develop our calculation skills by combining two groups to find the total. Finally, we will look at 2D and 3D shapes and practise identifying them and describing their properties.

## Phonics

We have been having great success with the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme. Children have been really responsive to their learning and are continuing to make good progress. This term we will be focussing on digraphs and tricky words

Week 1 ai ee igh oa

Week 2 oo oo ar or was you they

Week 3 ur ow oi ear my by all

Week 4 air er words with double letters:  
dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff are sure pure

Week 5 longer words



## Reading

This term we will be exploring some fantastic stories, but our main focus will be looking at the features of fairy tale stories and retelling stories using talk 4 writing. The children will be encouraged to answer lots of questions about what are reading and use vocabulary that they hear in books. They will explore different characters and act out narratives using role play, props and puppets.

Please continue to read for pleasure at home. Children will reap the benefits the more exposure to story structure, language and text they have. Listening to adults read and modelling intonation and expression is very important. The more practice that children get to read at home, the more confident and fluent they will become. E books will be updated every Friday to enable the children to access the book they have been reading at school during that week.



## Writing

This term we will be continuing to provide exciting opportunities for children to write in their play. We will also be doing lots of writing in response to our topic and stories such as writing New years' resolutions, instructions for making the Three Bears porridge, speech bubbles and letters to the Giant!

Lots of the children have been using their phonic knowledge for writing and it is wonderful to see such beautiful handwriting developing. We will be continuing to help children to write their names and to ensure that the letters are correctly formed and also that they have an effective pencil grip.



## Understanding the World

During this term we will be exploring different materials and their properties. We will explore hard and soft materials and then think about the different materials that might be best for building houses.

Later in the term we will be learning about plants and planting some of our own. We will learn to identify different parts of plants and what they need to grow well.

We will find out about the traditions of Chinese New Year.



## Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be able to use their developing vocabulary to act out different fairy tale stories within the Role play area and outside. We will be using the Puppet Theatre to perform shows of the traditional stories that we are learning.

The children will have the opportunity to explore different media such as paint, collage and transient art to make different representations of their experiences. They will be using recyclable materials to build fairy tale houses, beanstalk collages and designing gingerbread men. We will be learning a range of songs and rhymes linked to our topic and creating and using instruments to support our story telling.

## Information and Reminders

Clean junk modelling is always welcomed. We always need the following:

- . Toilet/kitchen roll tubes
- . egg boxes.
- . Small cardboard boxes and cereal boxes

Please continue to encourage children to develop their independence skills. As the colder weather sets in please make sure they are suitably dressed with plenty of layers. A navy blue fleece over their school uniform would be a great idea!

### PE and Forest School

PE will now be on a Tuesday with Miss Payne.

Forest School will now be on Thursday with Mrs Panesar.

Thank you for your support so far. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us at any time.

Dormice Team