

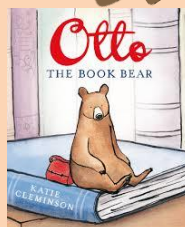
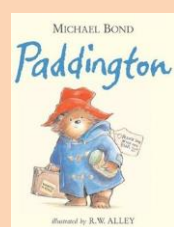
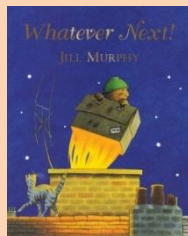
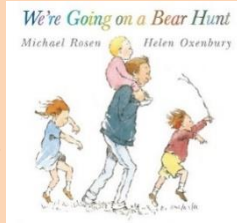


Welcome back to Year R!



Bear Necessities

Our topic for the first half term is called 'Bear Necessities' and we will be using a variety of bear themed stories and information books as a starting point. We will also be inviting your child to bring their favourite bear to school (date TBC)!



Once upon a time...

In the second half of the Spring term, we will be exploring a variety of traditional tales including The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Enormous Turnip and The Elves and the Shoemaker. We will be talking about the key features of a traditional tale in order to retell them and act them out.



In **phonics** we will be continuing to teach the children the Little Wandle Phase 3 vowel digraphs and trigraphs. As the children are becoming more fluent at segmenting and blending, we will be encouraging them to reread each sentence back as a whole.

When **writing** we will be supporting the children to apply their phonic knowledge to write longer words. For example: dancing may be written as 'darnsing'. Later in the term, we will be focusing on how to structure and form a simple sentence. This will include using finger spaces between words and spelling tricky words we have learnt so far. They will have opportunities to write letters to bears, create list of items needed for adventures with Baby Bear, in addition to making their own Goldilocks 'Wanted' poster and 'Missing' Everywhere Bear poster.

In **maths** the children will continue to develop their subitising and counting skills and explore the composition of numbers within and beyond 5. They will begin to identify when two sets are equal or unequal and connect two equal groups to doubles. They will begin to connect quantities to numerals.



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th February - Parents' Evenings

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Friday 21st March - Outdoor Learning (more detail to follow)





Within all activities in Reception, we promote the development of **communication and language** skills through learning new vocabulary and modelling how to speak in full and clear sentences.

In addition to this, we will continue to encourage the children to develop their relationships with their peers. This includes being confident to express how they feel and how to resolve problems in the classroom and on the playground.

Expressive Arts and Design

We have two exciting role play areas for the children to enjoy this half term, these are the 'Great Totham Bear School' and 'The Bear Emergency Services Hub'. These will be followed by the 'Once Upon a Time Post Office' and the 'Enchanted Cottage'.

There will be opportunities for the children to create their own bear caves, collage and make their own masks. They will also have the chance to explore colour mixing with a variety media.

Throughout both topics, the children will be encouraged to recreate the stories we read by acting out with the masks or puppets they have created. This will be extended into independent play where the children will be invited to make up their own stories and share these with each other.



Understanding the World

We will encourage the children to problem solve, for example: building a boat to help the Gingerbread man cross the river. We will be planting different vegetables in our outside classroom and encouraging the children to look after them and to talk about their observations.

We will revisit the seasons and discuss the changes we can see as we move from winter into spring.

When no one was looking,
he came to life!



How to support your child at home

To support your child's learning at home please continue to read regularly. We will continue to send home the weekly phonics guidance to aid you with pronunciation phrases, catchphrases and tricky words.

Your child could also practise writing at home. This could be labelling objects around the house, writing the shopping list or a birthday card, or even writing a sentence (or short phrase) to go with a picture they have drawn or a Lego creation they have made.

Please continue to support your child by counting anything, from peas on a plate, to toes on a foot. They may even be able to subitise (automatically recognise) the amount.

You could invite your child to solve practical problems by applying their mathematical knowledge, e.g. Nanny and Grandad are coming round for tea. How many more table mats do we need? Your child may then go and lay the table to help them practically solve this problem.

