



# Ducklings and Goslings' News



Our questions for the term are:

## **Will you be my friend? Will you read me a story?**

This term there will be a strong focus upon personal and social development, building relationships and confidence. Do you want to be friends? Would you like to play with me? It is time to find out more about friendship, being kind and working together.

We will also explore the magical world of fairy tales! Was the Big Bad Wolf really so bad? How many bowls of porridge did Goldilocks eat? Using different materials and shapes, we'll build castles and bridges. We'll read lots of stories and look at the ingredients that go into a fantastic fairy tale. We will be inspired to create story maps, describe characters and retell familiar tales. Our mathematical skills will help us to count the buttons on gingerbread men and estimate how many beans Jack has got! After reading The Enormous Turnip, we'll learn about Harvest and make vegetable soup. We'll also test the right materials to build a house for the Three Little Pigs. These are just a few of the exciting activities we will be doing this term!

Help your child prepare for their topic: Reading fairy tales can sweep us away into a fantastical world. Why not visit your local library together to read lots of different versions? You could also watch children's films on this theme and discuss the different types of characters. Alternatively, you could use toys to retell favourite fairy tales.

### **P.E**

Our timetabled slot for PE this term is on a Tuesday and Friday morning. All PE will be taught outside initially (weather permitting). Please ensure that all kit and uniform is named. Children will need to bring in their PE just on these days and take them home with them at the end of the day. No PE kits will be kept at school on pegs.

### **Tapestry**

We will soon begin to use our new online learning journal - Tapestry. Observations will be added regularly, as the year progresses, that you can view at home. If you notice any "WOW moments" or new steps in your child's development, you can also add these to Tapestry too. These snippets of information about your child help to build a more rounded picture of your child's development both in and outside of school. An example might be: *Jenny recognised the word "the" written in CBeebies magazine*; *"Bob rode his bike without stabilizers – he kept trying until he succeeded."* *"Fred helped me write the shopping list and recognised the initial sounds"*.

### **Volunteers**

Unfortunately, we are unable to have volunteers in school at present. If the situation changes, we will be sure to let you know as we really value your help.

### **Reading Books** –

Reading books will not be sent home during the first term and will be reviewed on a termly basis. Please be assured that your child will be heard reading regularly at school. This does not mean that you cannot encourage reading skills at home. It makes such a difference with their progress and confidence. Every child is a reader. I am sure many children can already recognise familiar signs in their daily lives e.g. *TESCO, Coco pops* etc. Sharing picture books together is a great way to extend their vocabulary and understanding of the storylines. Talk together about what you can see in the pictures and what might happen next, these are great ways to start children's love of reading.

### **Keeping safe**

Please be assured that the early years team are doing our utmost to ensure that your children are as safe as possible at school. We regularly clean resources and surfaces within classrooms as well as ensuring that hands are washed and sanitised regularly. Children will be regularly reminded of ways in which to stay safe and healthy.

### **Colder weather**

In Reception class we recognise that access to learning in the outdoor environment is vital to the children's all-round development and we encourage it on a daily basis. Although we have been blessed with warm weather recently, when we head towards the colder months, we still want the children to continue to play and learn in our wonderful, outside area. Please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a warm and if possible waterproof coat. Thank you.

### **Reminders**

***Water bottles***- water only! Please make sure your child comes into class with a water bottle. This can be refilled by us throughout the day. No squash please, as we are a healthy school and this can cause a sticky mess when spilt.

***Outside area***- please wait behind the gate until Mrs Grostate or Miss Boniface open the doors. Even if you can see us, we are busy until 8.55am getting things prepared. Please can you refrain from all allowing the children to use the equipment before school starts.

***Toys from home*** – please can you ensure that children only bring in the essentials to school i.e. water bottle, coat and lunchbox if your child is not having a cooked lunch that day.



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<p>Will you read me a story?</p> <p>Do you want to be friends?</p>	<p><b>Personal Social and Emotional development</b></p> <p>Getting to know me</p> <p>Making friends</p> <p>Looking after our resources</p> <p>Looking after each other and being kind</p> <p>Learning class and school rules</p> <p>Building independence with changing and using the toilet</p>	<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>Listen and follow simple instructions</p> <p>Turn taking in conversation and interactions</p> <p>Building confidence building our ideas</p>	<p><b>Physical development</b></p> <p>Funky fingers finger gym</p> <p>Building pencil grip strength</p> <p>Handwriting preparation – large movements</p> <p>Use knives and forks to cut</p> <p>Hand washing</p>
<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>Recognising their name</p> <p>Phonics Phase 2</p> <p>Reading for pleasure</p> <p>Retelling fairy tales</p> <p>Story maps</p> <p>Goldilocks</p> <p>The enormous turnip</p> <p>Jack and the beanstalk</p>	<p><b>Maths</b></p> <p>Matching and sorting</p> <p>Comparing amounts, size, mass and capacity</p> <p>Counting songs and rhymes</p> <p>Making patterns</p>	<p><b>Understanding the world</b></p> <p>Selecting materials for the three little pigs house</p> <p>Harvest</p> <p>Making porridge and soup</p> <p>Autumn</p>	<p><b>Expressive Arts and Design</b></p> <p>My portrait</p> <p>Puppet making</p> <p>Exploring the make-it area.</p>