

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break.
Our theme for this half term is 'Fairy tales'

<p>Child Initiated Learning (Play): A significant part of our day continues to be dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play). It is in these moments of curiosity and interest – the 'teachable' moment – that the adult makes a difference. The adults are always alert to individual children (observation), always thinking about what it tells us about the child's thinking (assessment), and always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support children's wellbeing and learning (planning for the next moment). There will be three Focus Children each week and for these children we will also record these 'teachable moments'. This is uploaded to Tapestry at the end of their Focus week. 'Wow' moments of learning throughout the week for all children will be recorded on Tapestry alongside this approach.</p>
<p>Phonics and Reading We will consolidate our recognition of all Set 1 sounds, specifically focusing on the 'special friends' so called because they are two letters which when they are together make a new sound. The special friends are 'sh ch th qu ng nk'. We will be increasing our focus on developing our blending skills to read and our segmenting skills (breaking the word down into the sounds, knowing cat is c-a-t) to spell. We will be encouraging more writing within their play. The children will begin working within different phonics groups depending on their assessment in December to ensure we are addressing their individual needs. The staff within Foundation rotate each week so we all work with each group in turn.</p> <p>It is very important that children are sharing their reading books regularly at home with you. Please record in their Reading Record and ensure both are in their school bag every day.</p> <p>The Oxford Owl website provides resources for parents to support your own understanding of phonics and also ideas on how to support your child https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/</p>
<p>Maths We will continue to follow the White Rose Maths scheme. We will be using Numberblocks to further support our mathematical understanding. This term we will be focusing on comparing the numbers to 5 and deepening our understanding of the composition of these numbers. We will further explore addition and begin to use part-whole models. Our maths sessions will then extend to explore 6-10 and the composition of these numbers. We will also be investigating mass, capacity, length and height. Alongside our whole class teaching there is the continual opportunity for children to develop these skills during their own play.</p>
<p>Helicopter Stories There have been some wonderful stories told for our book and it has been fantastic to see the children becoming more confident to take on roles in each other's stories when we are performing them. This term we will continue to scribe these stories. We will then sit as a class and the children act out their stories. This develops a huge variety of skills including communication, literacy and confidence. Photographs of your child's story will be uploaded to Tapestry for you to be able to read.</p>
<p>Message Centre This approach has been developed to sprinkle joy, excitement and a love of messaging into their play. This begins with secret symbols then moves to letters and words and the children hide and find these messages around our classroom and in their play. It aims to give children the confidence to have a go at mark-making/writing; it allows them to be creative and use their imagination and discover real purposes to writing. We have a message centre area in the classroom. This is all part of our co-play and engaging children in wonder of the world and the joy to be found in writing. 'Bob the Brick' continues to act as our messaging portal with the Minpins! Perhaps your child will begin hiding secret messages at home too.</p>
<p>Drawing Club These sessions explore the magic of stories through drawings. It aims to develop language skills, vocabulary, mark-making, mathematics and their imaginative skills. This term some of the stories we will be using are 'The Three Billy goats Gruff', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Who's Been Eating My Porridge?'</p>
<p>RE and PSHE In RE we will be exploring "How do people celebrate?" Within this unit we will explore some of the different celebrations people around the world have, including different times and ways to celebrate new year and Spring. We will develop our mindfulness strategies through our PSHE and our unit this term will be "Dreams and Goals". We will focus on developing our awareness of our own strengths and create targets for ourselves.</p>
<p>P.E. We will have our PE session on a Friday morning. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school each Friday. This term we will be developing our dance through traditional fairy tales.</p>

Woodlands and Nature Study Once a week we will continue to explore our on-site woodland. We aim to develop an enjoyment and curiosity of nature. This term our focus will be 'Winter' and will also include learning about hibernations, rocks, worms, snow, nature art and the Northern Lights. We have all-in-one waterproofs and wellies for the children to use. Your children need to have coats, hats and gloves as necessary for the weather. We have developed a nature area of the classroom and aim to develop these fascinations and curiosities throughout the week beyond the woodland visits.

Dough Disco, Cosmic Yoga and Just Dance We have sessions using one of these approaches several times a week. These aim to develop both gross and fine motor skills alongside our listening and attention.

Bright Ideas Time This is a whole school science initiative which we have adapted in FC. Every week we will explore 'Big questions' or discuss 'Odd one out'. These questions have visual prompts and allow the children to share their own ideas and thinking where there are no 'right' answers.

Music Time During our music and singing we will be exploring different songs and rhymes inspired by Fairy tales.

General Information

- **Name Everything!** If you do not have access to labels, stickers or a sharpie pen then please ask one of the FC staff and we will very happily write your child's name in for you.
- Ensure your child has at least one set of spare clothes in their school bag every day.
- Remember to bring a named water bottle into school each day.
- A fruit snack is provided each day for the children's snack. There is also milk available via the Cool Milk scheme.
- As part of the 'Focus Child' approach, we will send home an information sheet for you to contribute to when it is your child's week. Please complete and return these to school as requested.
- Ensure you are regularly reading together at home, both their school reading book and also other stories you may have.
- The children can continue to borrow story books from our class library.
- Communication - We will be available at the end of the school day if there are any questions you have or anything we can help with. Alternatively, please email the school office and they can forward messages to us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Dates:

- Foundation Class Outcome – Wednesday 16th February at 2.30pm