



WEEK 1 - Spring term - week beginning 6th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to start by saying a very big **THANK YOU** from the Early Years team for your generous Christmas gifts. They were very thoughtful and much appreciated. We hope you are getting back into the swing. It can take a little time to settle back into a new year can't it, but Happy New Year!



This week we have begun our new topic "The Great Fairy Tale Disaster". We started with the story of The three little pigs by role playing and retelling the story. We have also tested different materials to build houses that can withstand the wolf's huffing and puffing. We had a really fun afternoon experimenting with straws, sticks, fruit pastilles, (yes we did managed to restrain ourselves and not eat any!), and construction kits. The children predicted which materials were the strongest and then tested it. We later received a letter from the wolf complaining about how he was always portrayed, when he really had very little huff and puff left and only wanted a quiet life. So the children have decided to help the wolf to discover anyother fairy tale he could be part of that is a bit more peaceful and involves less boiling water! We have written lists of some of the fairy tales that we thought he might enjoy. Many of the children knew about events from fairy tales, but did not know what they were called or that they did not all contain fairies, so if you have opportunities to share stories with your child please include some fairy tales to help to develop their knowledge. In phonics we have revised some of the letter sounds where the children have show confusion. For example i and j, and b,d,p. We have also introduced the first digraphs - sh, ch, and th. The children find 'th' the most difficult and not confusing it with 'f'. In Maths this week we have identified missing numbers in number sequences and found the number pairs that make a total of 5. (4 and 1, 3 and 2 etc) We have also used the big, bad wolf to locate and use our positional language, encouraging the children to describe his location. For example, the wolf is next to or under the table.

What can you do to help?

- Find words or make lists of words with this weeks digraphs in - sh, ch, th.
- Practice forming *c*, *s*, and *a* correctly with entrance and exit strokes. Now these have been taught we will encourage the children to use them every time when they are writing.
- Can your child retell the story of The Three Little Pigs, recalling the events in the correct sequence. Talk about the good and bad characters and why they acted as they did.
- Can your child describe where items maybe hidden using words such as - next to, beside, under, in between,etc?

Many thanks for your continued support,

The Early Years team.

Please make sure that your child now has a named PE kit in school. They will need it on Tuesdays. Thank you!

