

# Once Upon a Time... Reception Newsletter



A warm welcome back after our short break. We hope you are all feeling rested and are ready to go for the busy half term we have ahead of us! Our topic for this half term is 'Once Upon a Time'. We really hope that this topic will open up the children's imaginations. Attached is a breakdown of some of the activities that the children will be taking part in and some ideas for activities to try at home.

The Reception team would like to say a big thank you to all parents who attended our very successful Reading Meeting last half term. It was really well attended, and we feel sure it will have a positive impact on the children's reading progress throughout the year.

## Wow Slips

Please keep bringing in the 'WOWS.' We have had some wonderful wows so far and the children are so proud to share home achievements with us. Additional WOW slips are available from the box just inside the main door in the Reception corridor.

## Cold Weather

As it is getting colder now can we please ask that children come to school with warm outdoor clothing every day and appropriate footwear. **Please name all items** including gloves, hats and scarves.

## Parents Evening

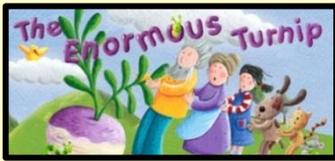
This is an important opportunity for you to come and see what we have been doing so far, you will be able to look at your child's individual books and journals and talk to us about any concerns. Appointments can be made on our school online system, if you haven't done so already.

We would like to add how pleased we all are that the children have settled so well into Reception and are trying really hard to be independent coming into school by themselves. This half term to develop the children's independence further, we will be encouraging them to dress and undress in PE independently and fasten their own buttons and outdoor coats!

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

Thank you for your support,

**The Reception Team**



# Once Upon a Time...



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Model different feelings and discuss which behaviour is appropriate within the classroom.
- Begin to understand the feelings of the different characters from stories.
- Taking responsibility of small tasks inside and outside the classroom.
- Team tasks and collaborative activities - The Enormous Turnip.
- Circle Time/SCARF Activities.

## COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

- Talk for Writing with the Billy Goats Gruff.
- Listening to and answering questions about different traditional tales.
- Using role-play and small world to re-enact traditional tales.
- Speaking and listening games.
- Learning new vocabulary linked to the season.

## LITERACY

- Exploring a range of traditional tales, including The Gingerbread Man, The Billy Goats Gruff and The Enormous Turnip.
- Retelling the stories using masks, props and story maps.
- Meeting the characters from these stories and asking them questions (hot seating).
- Continuing to apply Phase 2 phonics using Ruth Miskin's- Read Write Inc, handwriting phrases and introducing new letters and sounds.
- Practicing blending to read words and segmenting to spell words e.g. s- a- t sat
- Reading, writing and spelling tricky words, using actions to help the children remember them.

## MATHEMATICS

- Recapping and consolidating numbers to 10, using Ten Town resources to help with this
- Measuring and weighing ingredients to follow the recipe to make some Gingerbread Man.
- Continue with recognising and using 2D shapes, square, circle, triangle, rhombus, rectangle and hexagon and talk about their properties.
- Using pennies to count and pay for things in the bakery and within activities in the classroom.
- Beginning to add small groups of objects together.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Gingerbread Man Science experiment - dipping the Gingerbread Man in different liquids.
- Exploring different materials to build bridges for the billy goats gruff.
- Planting bulbs to enhance our outdoor area.
- Explore different cultures and celebrations (including Diwali, Christmas and Bonfire Night).

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Using a range of construction materials to make items linked to stories.
- Using large motor skills to move in a range of ways.
- Using a variety of tools and materials safely and with control.
- Developing scissors and fine motor skills with a range of different resources and activities.

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Focusing on the artist Jackson Pollock - Splatter style pictures
- Designing the biggest, ugliest troll.
- Using the ICT suite to develop our computer skills. (2 simple on Purple Mash)
- Music - Christmas songs and Charanga Songs.
- Exploring light and shadows to create our own shadow puppets.



# Reception Songs and Rhymes



## This Old Man

*This old man, he played one  
He played knick-knack on my thumb  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played two  
He played knick-knack on my shoe  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played three  
He played knick-knack on my knee  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played four  
He played knick-knack on my door  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played five  
He played knick-knack on my hive  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played six  
He played knick-knack with some sticks  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played seven  
He played knick-knack up in Heaven  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played eight  
He played knick-knack on my gate  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played nine  
He played knick-knack on my spine  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

*This old man, he played ten  
He played knick-knack once again  
Knick-knack paddy whack  
Give the dog the bone  
This old man came rolling home.*

## One Man Went to Mow

One man went to mow,  
Went to mow a meadow,  
One man and his dog, Spot  
Went to mow a meadow

Two men went to mow,  
Went to mow a meadow,  
Two men, one man and his dog, Spot  
Went to mow a meadow

Three men went to mow,  
Went to mow a meadow,  
Three men, two men, one man and his dog, Spot  
Went to mow a meadow

Four men went to mow,  
Went to mow a meadow,  
Four men, three men, two men, one man and his dog, Spot  
Went to mow a meadow



## Billy Goats like Grass so Green

Billy goats like grass so green,  
But the troll is very mean,  
So the big goat makes a dash,  
Pushes troll, who makes a splash!  
Billy goats like grass so green,  
But the troll was very mean!

(Sing to the tune of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star')





# Creative Home Learning

## Once Upon a Time...

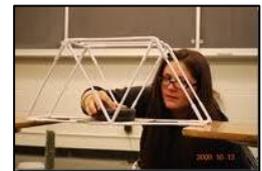
We shall be mainly focusing on the story of the *Gingerbread Man*, *The Enormous Turnip* and the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, but feel free to enjoy any of the traditional tales.

Why not cosy up on the sofa and see where your stories take you?

- Make some of your own gingerbread men following a recipe. Plan a design and decorate him. YUM!! Or make some salt dough ones to tell the story with. Make up your own story and ending.

Here is a link to a salt dough recipe [www.learning4kids.net/2012/12/09/how-to-make-salt-dough-recipe/](http://www.learning4kids.net/2012/12/09/how-to-make-salt-dough-recipe/)

- Make a cardboard gingerbread man, decorate him and try to retell the story.
- Make your own puppets and act out a traditional tale.
- Use your own toys and teddies to retell the story of the *Gingerbread Man*, or the story of *The Enormous Turnip*.
- Paint and draw your favourite characters, or even try to make a mask. Tell the story to somebody in your family.
- Try making a healthy soup with some turnips or other vegetables, let us know you liked it?
- Go outside and act out the story with family or friends. Video it and share with others.
- Use your own natural materials and make your own *Billy Goat Gruff* tray, add grass and a bridge, you can make your own troll and goats from card or paper.
- Use tightly rolled newspaper to construct your own bridge. What can you balance on the bridge?
- Have a go at making your own firework pictures
- Create your own Diwali art (Mehendi hands or Rangoli patterns)



**Please don't forget to practice your phonics!**

We have learnt quite a few sounds already. Have a go at home.

s a t p i n

We can make lots of words already:

sat pin Tim dim tip sad at in tin tap nap nip

This half term we will be looking at:

m d g o c k ck

