

Once Upon a Time

What stories can we tell?

Reception Term 4

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We really hope you have had a wonderful half-term holiday. We will be starting this term by sharing our half-term news and we cannot wait to find out what the children have been up to.

Our topic this term is 'Once upon a time'. We will be spending time learning about castles, knights, kings and queens. We will also share a number of treasured, familiar tales. As part of this topic, we will also look at non-fiction books and will be writing letters, posters and invitations. We are preparing to offer a warm welcome to a professional storyteller who will engage the children in an immersive storytelling workshop, based around traditional tales. Some of the texts we will be looking at are:



Home Learning

Reading	<p>As per last term, your child will bring two Little Wandle books home for an entire week. They will also be given the opportunity to take one other book home as often as they choose, either as a reading book or a library book.</p> <p>The sounds and the tricky words we are covering are outlined in the Little Wandle sheet that we stick into the homework book each week. Please support your child by writing out the tricky words and practicing them as often as possible. One brilliant tip is to write out the tricky words and put them up on the walls in as many places as possible. As your child passes the word, ask them to read it for you. Please also support your child to learn all of the sounds we have introduced. The most recent digraphs and trigraphs should be a priority. Instant recognition of these sounds leads to much more rapid fluency and the children feel really excited by gaining that proficiency. Please read with your child at least three times a week, even if it is just for 5 minutes.</p> <p>When reading with your child, please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by recording this on Boom Reader. We have found the APP particularly successful. Please come and see us if you require further support with this. During reading sessions, please discuss the story with your child and ask them questions about what they are reading. These questions will help to develop their understanding of what they are reading as comprehension and discussion are key reading skills in Reception.</p>
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Writing	The children will continue to practice their letter formation. We will be trying to encourage the children to become more independent writers. They are really developing their ability to write in a phonetically plausible way (ie. I am a reallee good righter) and it is essential that they are not corrected, but are encouraged to write in as many contexts as possible (cards to grandparents, shopping lists, signs around the house).
Maths	The most important thing for children in their reception year is that they can read, write, order and recognise numbers to 10. Please encourage the children to count their toys when playing and try to write and use numbers when appropriate at home. This term we will also be focussing on length, height, capacity and time.

Key questions to ask your child at home:

Who lived in a castle?

How is living in a castle different to living in a house?

Who worked in a castle?

What job would you like to have done in the castle?

Key vocabulary

Castle, knights, princesses, kings, queens, moat, drawbridge, jousting, banquet, portcullis, crenulations

Useful Websites

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> for Literacy and Maths games.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources> for Phase 3 and 4 games, blending sounds and words.

If you wish to make games to have fun at home with learning, you can print from

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

and search Knights, Castles or Kings and Queens, to find games and activities to learn vocabulary and facts linked to the topic.

Quick Reminders

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a named water bottle (filled with water only) and their book bags each day. They must also always have a coat, even if it is sunny first thing in the morning.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Boldero and Mrs Perry