

# It's a Bear's Life

In **Reading** we will be teaching the children digraphs (two letters that make one sound). As the children are becoming more fluent at sounding out and blending, we will be encouraging them to reread each sentence back as a whole.

In **Writing** we will be teaching the children to apply their phonic knowledge when writing longer words. For example: hibernate may be written as hiebernait. They will have opportunities to write letters to bears, a list of items for Baby Bear to take to the moon and scene descriptions from the different stories.

In **Maths** we will continue consolidating number recognition, counting and ordering to 10. We will be teaching the children how to solve addition and subtraction problems. For example: There were 4 bears on the bus, 3 more bears got on. How many bears are there now? We encourage children to count out objects, making sure they touch one object for each number.

The children have been working on their subitising up to 5 skills (recognising amounts of objects without the need to count). Perhaps this is something you can have fun practising at home.

**How to support your child at home**

In order to support your child's learning at home please continue with regular reading and practising of sound and word walls. Encourage them to also write the sounds they can hear in each word. This could be labelling objects around the house, writing a list or a birthday card, or even writing a sentence to go with a picture they have drawn or a Lego creation.

We will also encourage the children to solve practical problems by applying their mathematical knowledge, e.g. Nanny and Grandad are coming round for tea. How many more table mats do we need? Your child may then go and lay the table to help them practically solve this problem.

Please continue to support your child by counting anything, from peas on a plate, to toes on a foot.

**Welcome back** after what we hope was an enjoyable Christmas break. Our topic for the first half term is called '**It's a Bear's Life**' and we will be using a variety of bear themed stories and information books as a starting point. We will also be inviting your child to bring their favourite bear to school!

**Here are some of the books that we will be sharing at school:**

- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen
- *Otto the Book Bear* by Katie Cleminson
- *Peace at Last* by Jill Murphy
- *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy
- *Paddington Bear stories* by Michael Bond



In **Expressive Arts and Design**, there will be opportunities for the children to create their own bear caves, make bear themed collages and make their own bear masks. We will also encourage the children to explore colour mixing. Throughout the topic, the children will be encouraged to recreate the roles and characters from the bear themed stories that we will share. This will be extended into independent play where the children will be encouraged to make up their own stories and share these with each other.

We also have two exciting role play areas for the children to enjoy, these are the 'Great Totham Bear School' and our very own 'Bear Workshop'.

# ONCE UPON A TIME...

In the second half of the Spring term, we will be exploring a variety of traditional tales including The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Enormous Turnip and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

In **Reading** we will be talking about the key features of a traditional tale in order to retell them and act them out. The children will use the traditional tales as inspiration to write their own versions. They will also have the opportunity to create 'Wanted' posters for Goldilocks and 'Missing' posters for the Gingerbread man. We will be focusing on how to structure and form a simple sentence. This will include spelling tricky words taught: *I, no, go, to, the, into, he, she, we, me, be, was, they, you, all, my, her, are.*



In **Maths** the children will have exciting opportunities to practise and apply their mathematical skills. For example: Compare, order and describe size using three different-sized chairs, bears, bowls and spoons. They will also use large numbered baking trays along with Gingerbread Man cut outs, to then add the correct number of gingerbread men to each tray.

In **Expressive Arts and Design**, there will be lots of opportunities for the children to retell and act out the stories in our role play areas, These are the 'Once upon a time Post Office' and the 'Enchanted Cottage'.

In **Understanding of the world**, we will encourage the children to problem solve, for example: building a boat to help the Gingerbread man cross the river. We will also be planting different vegetables in our outside classroom and encouraging the children to look after them and to talk about their observations.

Within all activities in Reception, we promote **communication and language** skills through learning new vocabulary and modelling how to speak in full and clear sentences. In addition to this, we encourage the children to develop their relationships with their peers. This includes being confident to express how they feel and how to resolve problems in the classroom and on the playground.