



Topic Overview

Once upon a Time

This term, our first project supports children to continue developing their love of stories and reading through well-known and much-loved traditional tales, including *Cinderella*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Children will learn to retell (remembering repeated refrains, character language and pattern and act out these stories, using their imagination to bring each tale to life.

Sparkle and Shine

This project teaches children about the special celebrations that take place during the autumn and winter seasons, exploring the significance and symbolism of light at this time of year. Through stories, songs and creative activities, children will discover how people around the world celebrate with light, warmth and togetherness.

Recommended Books

Goldilocks and the Three Bears: Ladybird First Favourite Tales
 Little Red Riding Hood: Ladybird First Favourite Tales
 The Three Billy Goats Gruff: Ladybird First Favourite Tale
 The Three Little Pigs
 Cinderella: Ladybird First Favourite Tales
 Ladybird Tales: Rapunzel
 Little Glow

The Jolly Christmas Postman
 The Night Before Christmas
 House for Christmas Mouse
 Busy Nativity (Campbell Busy Books)
 Christmas (Sparklers)

This Term We Are Learning ...

<p>Communication and Language</p>	<p>Through our <i>Once Upon a Time</i> and <i>Sparkle and Shine</i> projects, children are developing their listening, speaking and conversational skills. In <i>Once Upon a Time</i>, they enjoy listening to traditional tales, retelling stories using key vocabulary and acting out characters, which helps build their confidence and imagination. In <i>Sparkle and Shine</i>, children listen to stories and songs about autumn and winter celebrations, share their own experiences, ask questions, and use new words to describe symbols, light and cultural traditions. These activities give children plenty of opportunities to talk, listen and engage in meaningful conversations with adults and peers.</p>
<p>Physical Development</p>	<p>To develop their fine motor skills so they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Revise and refine the movement skills they have already required.</p>
<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p>	<p>Celebrating differences - This term, children are learning to recognise what makes them special and unique, celebrating their own strengths and the things they are good at. They will explore families and homes, learning that everyone's family is different but equally special. Through play and group activities, children are developing their confidence to make new friends, share and take turns, and are beginning to understand how to stand up for themselves in kind and respectful ways.</p>
<p>Literacy</p>	<p>To read individual and group letters, saying the sounds for them. Blend sounds into words. Begin to recognise digraphs 'special friends.' Begin to hear sounds in words (particularly initial sounds) and form them with increasing accuracy.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>This term, children are deepening their understanding of numbers to 5 through practical, hands-on activities. They are exploring the purpose of counting, developing accurate 1:1 counting skills, and using language such as <i>more than</i>, <i>fewer than</i> and <i>equal to</i> when comparing quantities. Children are also learning that numbers can be made up of smaller parts and represented in different ways, building strong foundations for early number sense through fun, engaging experiences.</p>

<p>Understanding of the World</p>	<p>Through our <i>Once Upon a Time</i> and <i>Sparkle and Shine</i> projects, children are developing their understanding of the world around them. In <i>Once Upon a Time</i>, they explore traditional tales and learn about life in the past through familiar characters and story settings, recognising how things have changed over time. In <i>Sparkle and Shine</i>, children discover how people and communities celebrate special festivals during the autumn and winter seasons, exploring the importance of light, warmth and togetherness. They will notice similarities and differences between their own experiences and those of others, helping them to develop curiosity, respect and appreciation for the wider world.</p>
<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p>	<p>Through our <i>Once Upon a Time</i> and <i>Sparkle and Shine</i> projects, children are exploring their creativity and imagination in many ways. In <i>Once Upon a Time</i>, they act out stories, use props and costumes, and create crafts like masks and puppets to bring traditional tales to life. In <i>Sparkle and Shine</i>, children make festival-inspired art, lanterns and decorations, and use music, dance and role play to explore celebrations and the symbolism of light. These activities give children opportunities to express ideas, share experiences and work collaboratively with their friends.</p>

How To Help Your Child's Learning

Watch out for our **weekly phonics videos on google classroom** to help support reading and writing progression.

Read and share lots of story and information books with your child. Help them to retell the story and predict what will happen next. Makeup and create your own stories using characters your child loves. Make them a character in a story, include your family and friends in the story too!

Please read daily with your child and practise your child's words and sounds with them.

Key Vocabulary

Please talk to the children about the project they are learning at school. Using key vocabulary will help model to the children how to use this language in their vocabulary

house / cottage, forest / woods, chair, bowl, spoon, bed, porridge, red cloak / red hood, basket, path, flowers, bed, door

Items Related To Our Topic



proud, happy, special, unique

Information For This Term

Forest learning will take place on a Thursday afternoon. Children will need to come to school in non-uniform, long sleeved clothes and bring their waterproofs in a separate bag to change into later. Please ensure waterproofs are labelled and that welly boots stay in school for the winter months.

PE will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit. This consists of a black pair of tracksuit trousers or shorts, a white t-shirt, a warm sweatshirt or jacket and a pair of comfortable sports trainers. Please also ensure that **long hair is tied back** and children have **earrings removed** or are able to take them out themselves.

We kindly ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 each term to help with costs of special activities we do in class, such as baking and messy play. This donation can be made through the School Gateway app. Thank you very much.

Term Dates

17th December - Clever Caterpillars - Showcase (1440)

18th December - Brainy Bees - Showcase (1440)

19th December - Last day of term (Children to be picked up at 1400).