

Welcome to Foundation Stage



ONCE
UPON
A TIME



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term! We hope you all enjoyed your Christmas holidays and that you are looking forward to the exciting activities planned for this half term. We hope that by working together we can make this term a happy and very productive one for your child, offering them interesting and challenging activities and experiences and ensuring that they make the best possible progress with their learning.

This term we have started a new topic called '**Once upon a time**'. We have lots of exciting activities planned over the coming term including a bakers shop and a building site role play areas.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to pop in for a chat and we will be more than happy to speak to you. If you would prefer, an appointment can be made.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte, Helen and Donna



Some Important Reminders...



Attendance and Punctuality. Please ensure that your child arrives on time for school. The doors open at 8.45am for a morning/ full day session and our afternoon Nursery session begins at 12.30pm. Good **attendance and punctuality** is important, as it has a direct effect on earning. Children should not take time-off unless absolutely necessary. We are aiming for 98%-100% - please play your part in helping us to meet this ambitious target!

End of the session. School finishes at 11.45am for morning Nursery and 3.30pm for afternoon/ full day Nursery. All children must be collected by an adult. It is important that you inform us if someone new is collecting your child. If they are unknown to us we may not allow your child to go with them. If you are late collecting your child (12:00pm or 3:40pm) please go to the office.

Uniforms and Coats. We would be grateful if these could be clearly named. Please ensure children bring a coat to school everyday. We have also asked if wellies can be kept at school too. Please ensure your child comes to school with spare clothes in case of accidents or getting messy during play. Don't forget to pack plenty of nappies, wipes and cream. Children should also bring in fresh water everyday in their water bottles.

School Website and Tapestry journals. We have lots of information on our school website. We have a nursery page where we will regularly put on photos and updates. Please also remember to log in and check your child's Tapestry online learning journal as all observations and photos are posted on there. We also use our Facebook page for updates, don't forget to check!

Outdoor Learning

We adopt a forest school approach to learning outdoors. We plan a range of activities to engage our children with the natural environment. This term we are spotting the Winter changes and have had a little move area with some of the areas. We have daily access to the outdoor area and children can access the outdoors freely. It is important that your child is dressed suitably for the outdoors, as we really do go out in all weather.

Thank you for your continued support, it really makes a difference!

This term's 'Learning Theme' (topic) is 'Once upon a time'. We will be reading lots of traditional tales and planning activities linking to some of our favourite stories such as 'The 3 Little Pigs', 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears' and 'Little Red Riding Hood.'

Literacy. We will be focusing on our core stories 'The 3 Little Pigs' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children will be encouraged to name the characters and help to retell the story using story sticks. We will also encourage the children to join in with repeated phrases such as 'Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!' and 'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!'

We will sing our core songs daily and introduce songs such as 'When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears' and 'Jack climbed the beanstalk' by Tiny Tweeties.

Maths We will encourage the children to count their friends at group time and find the correct number to display on key carpet wall. We will sing the days of the week song to help identify which day it is. We will use our daily routine display to talk about what is happening 'now' and what might happen 'next'. We will use vocabulary linking to size such as big, medium and small, etc. and see if the children identify objects linking to size such as 'The Three Bears' We will explore shape using the different shaped cutters in the bakery.

Understanding the World. We will be talking about what we have done over Christmas, including thinking about our favourite presents. We will reflect upon our own learning by looking at and discussing photographs of ourselves and things we have done at nursery. E.g. using story baskets to retell core stories. We will explore our local area such as our local bakery and see what they sell to link with our nursery bakery. We will talk about where we live and see if we can see our house on our local walk. We will use the iPad/ IWB to sing along and dance to our favourite songs.

Expressive Arts and Design. We will have various creative resources linked to our topics to encourage and stimulate children to create their own art work. We will use resources linking to 'The 3 Little Pigs' story to create pictures of their houses such as straw, sticks and twigs. We will use people cutters for gingerbread stamping. We will encourage mark making in the messy tray with oats and will add water to see what happens next. We will bake and decorate our own biscuits/Gingerbread people. We will explore brick rubbings using the crayons with paper.

Physical Development.

This half term we will encourage the children to help dress and undress themselves when getting their nappies and clothes changed. We will support children to using the potty/toilet and encourage these children to pull their own trousers and underwear up and down. We will encourage the children to wash and dry hands independently and encourage them to put on and hang away their own aprons. We will encourage the children to try new foods for Chinese New Year.

Communication and Language.

All children will be encouraged to use their speaking and listening skills to talk about the topics we are covering and prior experiences they might have, e.g. what did we do in the holidays/get for Christmas? We will listen to stories, sing lots of songs and play listening games such as 'Simon says' and 'What's that sound?' We will use talking bags to develop speaking skills and turn taking. We will use our self registration board to encourage the children to use their big voices.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

We will ensure children settle back into the school routine after having two weeks off and we will welcome our new January starters. We will encourage children to take turns and share all the resources in the classroom. During tidy up time, we will encourage the children to be independent and look at the pictures on shelves to help find where resources are kept. We will be encouraging independence with putting on and taking off coats, wellies and shoes.

Ideas for activities to complete at home




- When reading books at home talk about the special characters in the book once your finished reading it.
- Making a picture shopping list letting your child mark off when they have found the item.
- When getting ready for nursery encourage your child to put on their own coat and shoes.
- Have a look online to see if you can find a recipe to bake some gingerbread men together.
- When out and about you could practice your child's counting for example counting the cars as they go by or counting their steps.
- Go for a listening walk, what can you hear?
- Put some music on and get dancing! Encourage your child to copy your movements.

GPS on Social Media



 Facebook: @Littlebutterfliesnursery

 Twitter: @Grangetown_PS

 Instagram: grangetown_ps