

## Winter, When I Grow Up and Wonderful Tales



## Hundred-Acre Wood Class Newsletter

### This half term...

Happy New Year! This half-term our theme is split into a few different themes. To settle back into school, we will take a brief look at what New Year means, reflecting upon our own personal celebrations and creating some individual resolutions. This is all supported by the book “The Koala Who Could”; focusing on how to face our fears and better ourselves. Next, we will be looking at all things Winter, inspired by our stories; “Dear Polar Bear” by Barry Ablett, and Oliver Jeffer’s “Lost and Found”. These texts will get us thinking about the wondrous weather surrounding this season, exploring the North and South Pole and experimenting with temperature. We will also explore the village, hoping to experience the community under a layer of cold frost (or snow, if we’re really lucky). This will allow us to compare with the walks we took throughout Autumn, highlighting similarities and differences.

The next theme is “When I Grow Up”, where we will be thinking about our hopes and dreams for the future. This topic will explore those who support us in our community, particularly the emergency services. Throughout this time, we will role-play as expert doctors and dentists, learning about how to look after ourselves and others. Finally, we will look at “Love Monster” in the lead up to Valentine’s Day, thinking about how we practice self-love, and prioritise our own wellbeing.

After half-term we will look at Traditional Tales, this includes; “The Elves and the Shoemaker”, “The Frog Prince”, “Hansel and Gretel” and “The Enormous Turnip”. This will be our first opportunity to learn each tale through physical actions and create story maps of our own. Finally, in the run up to Easter, we will spend some time looking at the life cycle of a chicken and reading the much-loved story “Rosie’s Walk”.

In RE, we use the Emmanuel Project scheme of learning. Our unit is salvation within Christianity. We will be learning and reflecting on the question “How can we help others

when they need it?"; thinking about the commitment that Christians have to saving others, and how Christians might ask God to help them. All of our topics within RE are linked to another faith. This half-term we will briefly look at a Sikh story "Har Gobind and the 52 Princes". After half-term we will think about how Christians celebrate Easter with the question "Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?". We will also look at Buddhism and reflect upon the tale of "The Monkey King".

In PE, we are lucky enough to have Mr. Barnes with us during our sessions on a **Thursday** afternoon. Children will need their PE kits in school, and will be asked to take their uniform back home- this is because our PE session is timetabled for the end of the school day.

By the end of term, the children will have been working on numbers 6-10 as well as the next set of sounds;

/sh/ 'Sherry shines her shoes.'

/th/ 'Theo has a thimble on his thumb.'

/ng/ 'Bring the king a ring.'

/ai/ 'Train in the rain.'

/ee/ 'See the tree?'

/igh/ 'Bright light.'

/oa/ 'Goat in a boat.'

/oo/ 'Zoom to the moon.'

/oo/ 'Look at the book.'

/ar/ 'Start the car.'

## How you can help at home...

- Continue all that you have been doing!
- Encourage your child to use their imagination – to make up story based games with their toys, to pretend, to dress up, to paint and draw etc.
- Encourage your child to play physically – to run, ride a bike, climb, swing, catch etc.
- Encourage your child to read signs, symbols and labels.
- Share books regularly with your child.
- **Help your child to learn to go to the toilet independently, and to wash and dry their hands.**
- Play counting games with your child.
- Encourage your child to experiment with reading and writing their own name.
- Encourage your child to do things independently – e.g. getting dressed, tidying things away etc.
- Show a real interest in your child's learning at school- talk to them about their day.
- Give your child some quiet time to reflect positively on their day.

- Ensure your child has as much sleep as they need – school can be a tiring place!
- Encourage your child to make friends at school – invite other children round to play.
- Continue to talk about school positively and enthusiastically.

The children will be assessed on their phonological awareness over the year and, when ready, given sounds, words and texts to complement their reading ability. This should be read as independently as possible, but should be read out loud to an adult who is able to support *if* necessary. These should be practiced **at least** twice, once for sound/ word recognition and once for comprehension.

Reading is of vital importance, if your child is confident enough to begin reading simple stories then please support and encourage this as regularly as possible both with school books and home books.

There are still so many benefits to sharing stories; read **to** your child, whenever and wherever you can. I am always happy for children to borrow books from school, as long as they are taken good care of. Start thinking about how to incorporate reading into your everyday life; reading road signs, cooking instructions, shopping lists or even subtitles on their favourite TV show.

## Red Words

I am so grateful to all of your support at home with phonics and reading, please keep up all that you are doing – it really does make such a difference. Some parents/carers were asking if you could have a list of the “red words” (these are words that cannot be sounded out, and must be recognised at sight). At school, we use a technique called say-spell-say. This is where the child will say the word, then spell it out using letter names, finally saying the word again, for example; **the- T H E- the**.

Below is a list of the red words that you may find useful. This is not by any means an expectation of something to do outside of school, but I know that a lot of you were eager to have them to practice at home.

I	we	said
no	me	have
the	be	love
to	you	loves
go	your	so
into	are	do
put	was	some
puts	all	come
he	they	one
she	my	were

## Remember...

Our PE day is **Thursday**, we continue to ask that children come into school in their named PE kits on this day. I would encourage the children to get dressed as independently as possible at home, try to give them the *least help* possible as a first port of call.

Water bottles need to be taken home daily for cleaning and refilling. This should be filled with **water** only please.

For those cold and rainy days please ensure that your child has a coat to wear.

A gentle reminder that toys are not permitted in school.

**Thank you for your continued support.**