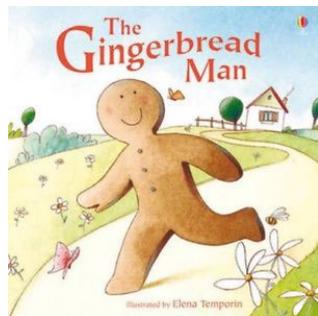
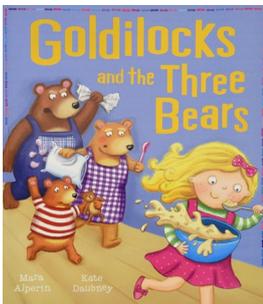


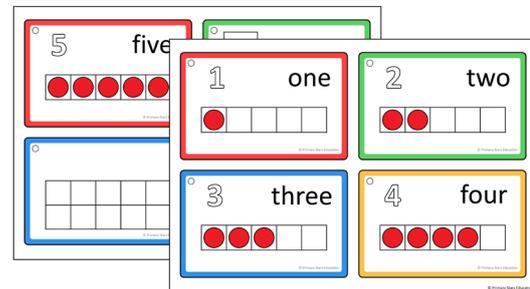
Nursery Spring Term Newsletter

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year as your children begin their second term in the Nursery at The Willows. We have lots of different opportunities planned and are looking forward to the coming term. The children are fully established in nursery life now, and are familiar with the routines and our expectations – to the point where some of them tell us what we should be doing! As always, you are able to contact us in a number of ways if you have a problem or a concern, or you would just like to share some information with us. We are contactable by dojo or you can speak to us more informally when either dropping your child off in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon. Thank you for trying to get your children to school on time as our day starts very promptly with name writing as soon as the children come in. Your child being late could mean that they miss some of the important opportunities that we provide when the school day starts. Doors open at 8.50am for a 9.00am start and children are let out at 3.05pm at the end of the day.

We will be exploring a number of 'Traditional Tales' through a range of stories which will include 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We will be retelling the stories, sequencing them, drawing pictures and writing about them.



In Mathematics we will be counting lots of different things and in lots of different ways! We will be using dot cards to recognise number patterns and five and ten frames to learn about a number of concepts. We will also be working on finding one more and one less than a given number.



The children will continue to learn in a fun, practical and imaginative way, carefully building on the learning that has taken place in the previous term.

Our indoor role-play area will be used to support our Traditional Tales and so will be a kitchen where the gingerbread man is made, the three bears cottage and the giant's castle to name but a few.

Outdoor play continues to be a very important part of our curriculum and we will continue to do our Willows Outdoor Workshop every other week. Our Willows Outdoor Workshop is based on Forest Schools and takes learning outdoors. It may involve exploring the woods as a group and collecting treasures, building a den or simply extending an activity that has taken place in the classroom. The development of Forest Schools began in 1993, and is based on a Scandinavian idea that recognises the importance of children's contact with nature. As before half term, it will take place every other Friday starting **Friday 6th January** and we will continue to attempt to go outside in most weathers so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately according to the weather. On very cold days, your child will need a hat, scarf and gloves.

Children will have the opportunity to make characters from a number of traditional tales using a variety of materials and resources.

In P.E. we will be exploring Traditional Tales through dance, telling the story through different types of music and movement.

Lots of children will be learning how to write their name using the correct letter formation this term which can be a little tricky at times. If your child is showing an interest in writing then encourage them to write their name by perhaps going over the letters you write for them first and as they gain in confidence, independently.

Children are still trying very hard to put their own coats on and take them off, while some have even managed to master how to fasten a zip! Encouraging your child to do this will help them to be as independent as possible throughout the school day.

Phonics

Phonics plays a huge part in the children learning how to read and write. All of the children are at very different stages which is why we group the children by ability for these lessons. The range of lessons are as follows –

Read Write Inc Group 1 – These children know most of their letter sounds, are learning how to blend words and will hopefully be getting a reading book very soon if they haven't got one already. This term we will be beginning to write simple words like mat, sat, etc.

Read Write Inc Group 2 – These children are also beginning to learn letter sounds and how to blend.

Letters and Sounds Groups – These children will be playing lots of listening games and are learning how to hear the initial sound in words, recognise rhyming words and blending a word when an adult says the sounds. They will also be learning how to break down a word into its component parts.

Talk Boost – These children will be developing their communication and understanding skills and will bring a book home to be discussed and shared with an adult.

If you would like to know which group your child is in so that you can best support them to make progress to the next stage of learning then please speak to your child's key worker. In the meantime if you google the following websites, they are excellent if you would like to know a little bit more about the correct sound pronunciation and blending –

Information for Parents: How to say the sounds – Ruth Miskin

How to teach blending to children - Phonics tutoring with Ruth Miskin

If your child has a wallet with sounds in or a reading book, please leave them in your child's bag in order that we can practice with them as and when we get the chance.

Star of the Week Assembly

Star of the week assembly will start next Friday 13th at 9.10am. If your child is getting a certificate you will be invited by dojo and you will be able to attend the assembly.

Spare Clothes

Please make sure that your child has a full set of spare clothes on their peg, in particular, socks, to be used if your child has an accident. If your child borrows any school clothes please return them as we are running very low currently as a result of items not being returned.

Dates for your Diary

Half Term – School closes Friday 17th February

School opens for children Monday 27th February

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March

Easter Assembly and Bonnet Parade – Tuesday 28th March – 9.30

Easter – School closes Friday 31st March

School opens Monday 17th April

Thank you for your continued support, we really do appreciate all of the hard work that you do at home to help your child with their learning. It really does make a big difference to the progress that they make.

The Nursery Team