



## Badgers Newsletter January 2019

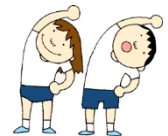
Welcome back! We hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. We have loved listening to the children's stories about what they got up to over the holidays and hearing about their favourite presents. It sounds like Father Christmas was very generous this year!

We have got lots of exciting things planned for this half-term including a 'Bring your dad or male relative' to school on Friday 19 January from 1.40 p.m. We have been given special permission to use Forest School for that afternoon so that we can have a campfire and cook some popcorn. I'm sure that you appreciate that for health and safety reasons we need as many adults as possible so we hope to see lots of you there!

We are using two traditional tales, *The Gingerbread Man* and *Little Red Riding Hood*, as the focus of the children's learning this half-term. The repetitive language used in the stories helps to develop the children's language and provide lots of opportunities to develop their learning and thinking into other curriculum areas by for example thinking about different ways that the *Gingerbread Man* could cross the river so that he doesn't get eaten by the fox!

### PE

The children have got PE scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays. Please can the children bring in their PE kits on a Monday and we will send it home on Friday. Can you also make sure that all your child's clothing is clearly named and fits. It is very difficult for the children when plimsolls are too big or too small. There were a number of items that went missing last term therefore it would also be helpful if you can check that your child has their clothes and return any that might have mistakenly been picked up.



### Forest School



In order that the site has chance to recover and to ensure plants are not damaged before they have time to emerge in spring there will be no Forest School for this half-term.

### Growth Mindset



One of our targets again in our School Development Plan this year is to continue to foster a 'Growth Mindset' culture across the whole school. This means that we are teaching children that through hard work and practise they will get better and improve. We are also trying to help the children understand that it is alright to make mistakes and get things wrong because we can try again and learn from our mistakes (not an easy thing for some of our children to accept!) As teachers we are thinking carefully about the language that we use with the children. So rather than saying 'Clever boy/girl' we are using praise such as 'Well done! You have tried really hard, so that means you are learning.' If you could try using similar language at home it will help get the message across!

Mistakes  
make me better

Instead of  
giving up,  
I'll try it a  
different way

I can train my brain

I keep growing  
my mind by  
trying new things

I can't do this...YET

## English

We will be continuing to develop the children's ability to play about with sounds by, for example, hearing and generating rhyming words. For those children who are ready, there will be daily Jolly Phonic lessons to help them learn letter sounds, tricky words and develop blending and segmenting skills to help with reading and writing skills. These children will have letter sheets, tricky words to learn and words to develop blending and segmenting skills as appropriate. It will help if you can spend time with your child on these activities.



When learning to read some of the children in Badgers respond better to learning through a whole word approach and this strategy will also be incorporated into our learning and teaching.

## Mathematics

As well as continuing to develop the children's basic number recognition and counting skills, we will be looking at money, shapes and measures such as weight, length and capacity. You can support your child by singing lots of counting songs, looking out for numbers and shapes in the environment and whenever possible giving the children the opportunity to use money to buy things in shops. The children can also use Mathematics to support their learning at home. If you would like more information about how you can support your child's learning in maths at home, please come along to the Curriculum Evening on Thursday 24 January at 7.00 p.m.



## Scrapbooks



It is really helpful if you can put something, however small, in the scrapbook every weekend. The books provide an invaluable link between home and school and form the basis of our Literacy work on a Monday morning.

## Coffee Afternoon



We hold these afternoons each half term. They provide an opportunity for parents to get together in an informal setting and have a chat. We understand that it can be difficult for parents to meet each other as many children come in by taxi and parents therefore miss out on the playground banter. This half term's get together will be held on Wednesday 6 February at 2.15 p.m. in the staffroom.

## And finally

We have an open door policy at Dovers Green and welcome parents in school. However, if you need to talk to us at any length we would appreciate that you do so at the end of the day when things aren't so hectic!

We are all looking forward to a busy and successful half-term and working with your children.

Nicki White, Jenny Ricketts, Roxanne Milner-Brown, Hannah Chandler and the Badgers' team.

## Communication and Language

We will:

- listen to stories and share our understanding through a range of activities such as role play and small world toys.
- listen to others when they share their experiences and ask them questions so that we can find out more and show each other that we have been listening carefully.
- Join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.
- Use language to imagine and recreate roles from stories we have read or listened to.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will:

- continue to learn how to play co-operatively, take turns and share favourite toys with each other.
- learn about having a 'Growth Mindset' by working hard, and persevering even when things are tricky.
- explore different ways of expressing our emotions and develop our understanding of how our actions affect other people.

## Physical Education

**Dance**

We will learn to control our bodies and co-ordinate the movements we make while using our imagination.

**Gym**

We will use the apparatus safely and explore different ways to move our bodies.

**Games**

We will develop the ability to throw and catch a ball or a bean bag and throw an object accurately at a target.

- develop our fine motor skills using various tools and equipment and know how to use them safely.

## English

We will:

- learn some traditional tales such as The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood so that we can re-tell them.
- Some of us will begin to understand how stories are structures
- be learning about letter sounds and some of us will be using our phonic knowledge to help us read and write words. These children will also be remembering to use their finger spaces and using full stops and capital letters correctly.
- be practising making lines and marks and some of us will be learning how to form our letters and numbers correctly.
- write labels and captions to for example, describe a model that we have made.

## Spring 1 2019

The Gingerbread Man

Little Red Riding Hood



## Mathematics

We will:

- practise counting accurately using objects. Some of us will be adding and taking away using objects and number lines.
- find one more or less than a given number using a number line.
- learn about 2 and 3D shapes.
- learn about and make our own repeating patterns.
- understand and use directional language such as up and down and positional language such as in front of, behind.
- solve simple problems and use language to talk about what we have done.

## Expressive and Creative Arts

We will:

- choose and use equipment and tools appropriately to help us create pictures and models.
- learn how to apply paint correctly. Some of us will learn how to mix colours together.
- develop the skill of observation to help us sketch, paint our own representations and create models.
- explore musical sounds and make up simple rhythmic patterns using musical instruments.
- use our role-play corner which will include 'Grandmother's cottage' to develop our imaginative play.

## Understanding the World

We will:

- observe, explore and talk about the changes that occur in winter.
  - use my scrapbook to talk about people I know and special times or events for my family and friends.
  - learn about the importance of exercise and a healthy diet.
  - learn about different parts of our bodies and our senses.
- .In ICT we will:**
- use speech bubble voice recorders to talk about the changes that we can see happening in our environment.
  - continue to develop our skills to programme toys and use a CD player.
  - use computer programs to create pictures and support our learning across the curriculum.