



# P.P.S. Oak Class

January 2023  
Spring Term

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with family and friends.

For the first part of the term, our topic will be '**Traditional Tales**', as we explore a variety of traditional stories.

## Communication and Language

We have started our topic by reading and retelling Jack and the Beanstalk. We have discussed some of the vocabulary within the story, for example poor, furious and enormous. We have been practising using this vocabulary in different contexts within our conversations and play. As a class we drew a story map together to aid our retelling of the story.

We will be moving onto discussing the beginning, middle and end of the story, before we choose which part of the story we would like to change, in order to make a new version. This will encourage our storytelling skills, as well as our imagination and use of descriptive language.

After our work around Jack and the Beanstalk, we will be reading The Three Little Pigs and carrying out similar activities, in order to build up our knowledge of stories.

## Understanding the World

We will be left a present by the giant in order to grow our own beans. We will be finding out about how to prepare our allotment and what they need in order to grow. We will then be able to harvest them towards the end of our Reception year.

After reading the story of The Three Little Pigs, we will be challenged to make the best coat for the wolf for when he runs between the homes of the little pigs. We will be learning the meaning of the word 'waterproof', whilst we explore different materials and which one would make the most appropriate coat.

We will also be finding out about the materials used to build a variety of different houses built in the past and will be comparing these houses to our own and talking about how buildings have changed over time.

## Expressive Arts and Design

We will be designing and building our own houses for the three little pigs, using various construction resources. We will be challenged to think about the size of our houses, as well as how we can make them secure so that the wolf cannot blow them down!

We will also be learning how to build using junk modelling, including the best way to assemble and join pieces together in order to make a sturdy model. We would be grateful if you could bring in any small boxes (smaller than cereal boxes) that you may have for our junk modelling.

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## Phonics

We will be moving onto digraphs (two letters that make one sound, for example ch and sh) including double letter sounds. We will be reading (blending) and writing (segmenting) words with these sounds in them, as well as moving onto reading and writing simple sentences. As part of this, we will explore what makes a sentence, including using a capital letter and finger spaces.

## Maths

We will be continuing to explore numbers to 5 (including 0) and representing amounts using counters, 5 frames and other objects. We will begin to explore addition, understanding that we can combine amounts and looking at the different ways to make 5 (number bonds).

We will be exploring mass using the language of heavy, heaviest, lighter and lightest to compare items, estimating which is the heaviest and using balance scales to check.

We will be learning key vocabulary related to capacity such as full and empty, as we look at bowls of porridge that Goldilocks finds in the Three Bears' house.

## P.E.

During the Spring Term, we will be teaching the children 'Dance' in our P.E. sessions, which will be on a Tuesday. We will be learning how to put movements to music, as well as using dance to retell the traditional tales we have been learning. Through these sessions, we will be developing our balance and coordination, as well as our ability to listen to and respond to different kinds of music. Please ensure that P.E. kits are in school every day, just in case we need them after too much water, sand or mud fun!

## Reading

Please continue to hear your child read their school reading book **at least four times a week** and make a note of this in their reading record. This additional practice is essential in order to help them recall sounds and words that we have been learning in Phonics. It also helps to develop comprehension skills by talking about what they have read and answering questions about the characters, the events and discussing new vocabulary.

Alongside hearing your child read, please continue to share stories with your child that you have at home, as well as the ones that they bring home from the school library. This a great opportunity to have some quiet time with your child, make up alternative endings and talk about favourite parts of the story, as well as allowing your child to tell some of the story using the pictures.

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## Ideas for home

Below are some ideas of activities that you might like to try at home with your child. If you complete any of them, please bring them in so we can share them with the rest of the class or take a photo and upload it to Tapestry.

- Read any traditional tales or fairy tales that you may have at home or can borrow from the library. These could include *The Gingerbread Man*, *Rapunzel*, *The Little Red Hen*, *Cinderella*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.
- Role play these stories with siblings or adults at home. Decide who will be which character, what could you use as props to support your storytelling, for example using teddies to be the animals in the story of *The Gingerbread Man* or a bedsheet to be the river where the troll lives under the bridge.
- Make up your own endings to these stories. What might happen to the wolf in *The Three Little Pigs* if he is not scary and just wants to make friends? Who would *Rapunzel* marry if the prince turned into a frog? *Goldilocks* could go into the house to find that it belongs to fairies rather than bears.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Harris or Mrs Ford.