



Reception Newsletter- Week beginning: 21.11.22



Term 2 topic- Tell me a story

Our story of the week- 'The Gingerbread Man'.

What another amazing, action packed, fun-filled week in Reception!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- At The Elms Primary School we know we always need to be READY, RESPECTFUL & SAFE and we also know that this helps us make our classes and our school a happy and safe place to be. In our jigsaw session this week we started off the session by sorting photos of different groups of people. We then thought about and discussed if we can group people. We reinforced the idea that although we all have some similarities, we are all unique and different from each other which makes us all special. We also chatted about our families. We found some similarities between our families, but we also found lots of differences and talked about how these make our families really special.

Communication and Language- The traditional tale, 'The Gingerbread Man', another great story, gave us lots to talk about this week. We do love to chat in Reception about all sorts of things! We enjoy our discussions on the carpet about a variety of topics and we know that when we are in conversation with our friends and teachers, we need to listen to them too! We also know what we need to do to be a good listener. The teachers are also good at listening! We enjoyed talking about the ingredients for making gingerbread men and how to make them. We could orally tell our friends how to make gingerbread and understand the order in which we do this is very important. We also love to hear what our weekend bears have been up to when they spend time with you. It is lovely to see and hear the children excitedly share this with their class and great to see the other children so keen to listen!

Physical Development- Being active has helped us keep warm during our outside time this week! It's been a chilly one! We have been running; kicking, catching and throwing balls as well as having fun with the hula hoops and driving our trikes. Of course, on top of this we love to make up little scenarios using our imagination when we are outside and making up games. We continue to love our squiggle. Ask your child to demonstrate! We enjoyed using ginger spiced playdough and shaving foam at the malleable table which helps strengthen our fingers as well as a lot of the activities around the class. We're using our fingers all the time!

Literacy- We have loved exploring our story of the week, 'The Gingerbread Man' and have had fun making stick puppets to act out the story. We are working hard on using our 'Fred fingers' to pinch the sounds in our words onto our fingers to help us hear the sounds in each word before we write them. Our phonics lessons are going so well and we now know the phonemes (sounds) m, a, s, d, t, i, n, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e, l, h, r, j, v, y and our first diagraph, sh. Diagraphs have two letters but make one sound and we call them 'special friends'. You will hear this language a lot from your child(ren)! Can you spot our special friend in any words when you are out and about? We continue to help Fred the Frog blend his sounds to say words. He can only speak in sounds, so he requires the children's help.

Mathematics- We have been learning about doubling and positional language this week. We enjoyed finding what double a number was, using our gingerbread man sheets. We used counters/ buttons to help us work this out. We know that when you double a number you need to add the same amount, and the number gets bigger. We have been using our positional language to describe where we have found a teddy, where to put a toy at tidy time and where a friend or the teachers could look for something. We have been looking; in / under / on / next to / beside/ above / below. I wonder if your child can tell you where they found something that was missing at home? As we've said before, we are great problem solvers! We also continue to warm up our maths brains by

counting in 1s to 30 and counting to 10 and back down again. We are working on recognising and forming numbers to 20 and saying one more and one less than a given number.

Understanding the World- When it hasn't been raining too hard we have been wrapping up warm, putting our hoods up and exploring the changes in our new school grounds. We have noticed that some of the trees have lost all their leaves. We love the changing seasons! We really enjoyed making gingerbread men this week and helping our teachers add ingredients and mix the dough. We talked about how things change as you cook and heat them up. Once ready, we then decorated our own! Yum! We also completed a science experiment this week to see what would happen if the gingerbread man tried to swim across the river. We learnt some new vocabulary and found out that he would have broken apart and sunk to the bottom of the river. He did not float!

Expressive Arts and Design- This week we have been very busy on the art table making paper plate gingerbread men / ladies! They are amazing and so individual! We also designed our own gingerbread men using pens and paint. You may have heard your child sing some words from our Christmas songs which we are busy practising! We are very creative which is evident not only in our artwork, but in our role play, our model making and in our conversations... everything really!

Supporting learning at home

- Why not talk about winter, the signs of winter and talk about which animals hibernate?
- Challenge your child (ren) to do up their coat, fasten their shoes and put on their gloves by themselves!
- Ask your child (ren) which sounds they have been learning and to tell you the rhymes we learn to help us to write them. Can you spot anything at home beginning with these sounds? Remember our special friend 'sh'.
- Can your child write any words with the new sounds, 'j' 'v' or 'y' or using our special friend 'sh', e.g., 'jam', 'vet', 'yak' and 'shop'? Remember your Fred fingers, stretch the word and then pinch the sounds on your fingers before writing them down.
- Hide some teddy bears at home. Can your child (ren) tell you where they found them?
- Make up some doubling problems, e.g., Teddy has 2 biscuits but thinks he does not have enough. Can you double them?
- Can you retell the story of The Gingerbread Man together and ask us what we know about traditional tales.

Notes for next week 28.11.22

- Appropriate outdoor wear and water bottles to be in school every day. Thank you.
- Although I know everyone is very mindful of their language whilst on the school premises, but please can I remind everyone of this when walking home as there are still lots of 'small ears' around.
- Please ensure **book bags are in every day**, thank you.

Have a lovely weekend!