



Reception Newsletter - Week beginning: 20.11.23

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. We have been using the sand timers a lot to sort out our own small disputes when sharing our toys. We know that this is making us independent learners! We are all very good at giving each other claps and well done wishes when the 'All Day Every Day' and who Barnaby Bear is going home with each week is announced. It is so lovely to hear.

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! The teachers are also good at listening! We enjoyed talking about the ingredients for making gingerbread men and how to make them. We also love to hear what Barnaby Bear has been up to when he spends 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- Another very active week! We have been running; kicking, catching, and throwing balls; using the bats and balls and having fun with the hula hoops. Of course, on top of this we love making up little scenarios using our imagination when we are outside and making up games. Some of the children made a wonderful aeroplane with the big blocks and each time we went outside, more and more detail was added to it. How wonderful! 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 using masks to act out the story. We have now learnt all our single sounds. We learnt 'x' this week. We continue to blend and segment VC words (vowel consonant words e.g. in, at) and CVC words (vowel, consonant, vowel words e.g. hen, jam, yak, yum, wax). We have also been segmenting words using our 'Fred Fingers' so we know which letter sounds make up our word, and we can then make it using magnetic letters or some of us have been writing them in our phonics books. You can have fun with this at home too! We had a go at writing speech bubbles from The Gingerbread Man and we sounded out the words really well using our Fred Fingers.

Mathematics- We love our maths sessions in Reception. This week we have been exploring numbers to 5 and finding out what number bonds make 5 e.g. 5+0, 0+5, 1+4, 4+1, 2+3, 3+2. We love using the 5 frames and the double-sided counters to work out number bonds. We have also been subitising dots on plate. Subitising means the ability to look at a small number of objects and instantly recognise how many objects there are without needing to count. We love learning new words! After our maths session we like to explore the maths apparatus in the class and extend our learning. Ask us what we use! We have also started to talk about doubling and

we have been using our fingers to help us. Our fingers are a very useful resource in maths! 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 10 and saying one more and one less than a given number.

Understanding the World- The weather is becoming cooler but at least we have not had much rain! Please ensure your child has coat every day, thank you. 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. We cut out and decorated our own. What fun! On the interactive whiteboard, we matched the numerals to the corresponding number of buttons on the gingerbread men and we designed some fabulous gingerbread men and ladies.

Expressive Arts and Design- This week we have been very busy on the art table using watercolours and pastels to create the story. 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 have started practising this week! 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?
- Can your child write any words with the sounds they have learnt eg 'jam', 'vet', 'yak' . Remember your Fred fingers, stretch the word and then pinch the sounds on your fingers before writing them down.
- 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 27.11.23

- Coat and water bottles to be in school every day. Thank you.
- Please ensure book bags and phonics packs are in every day. Thank you.
- Our Library day is still Mondays so please make sure that your child brings their library book back to school on this day.
- Letters have gone out about this years Nativity Play. If you have not received one, please let me know.

Have a lovely weekend!