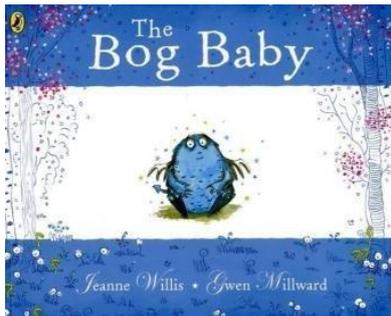


Reception Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you have had a thoroughly enjoyable half term!

Our key high-quality text this half term



The Bog Baby
By Jeanne Willis

Literacy

This half term our Literacy sessions will be largely focused around the text 'The Bog Baby' by Jeanne Willis. Through this text we will be beginning to explore characters and settings, asking who, where, when and why questions, develop the use of our own imaginations to visualise and innovate our own Bog Babies, create our own descriptions about them by making choices about vocabulary and continue to develop our speaking and listening skills. We will be exploring some non-fiction writing in the form of fact files based around different animals and pets and will be creating our own too.

Reading & Phonics

This half term we will be continuing with our daily phonics lessons to consolidate the letter sounds and formations. We will be continuing to encourage the children to blend sounds together to read short words and sentences. Lots of oral practise of this skill will really help your child when blending to read!

As the term progresses we will be moving on to Phase 3 phonics which will include more letters of the alphabet and also 'digraphs' and 'trigraphs', which are two or three letters that make a sound when next to each other eg. 'ee', 'igh', 'sh'. These sounds can be more difficult to spot within words, so we will be engaging in activities to identify the sounds and encouraging the children to continue to put letter sounds together.

We will be continuing to send home letter sounds and digraphs in your child's sound book for you to practise at home. Reading books will continue to be sent home throughout the half term on a weekly basis or at a pace that suits your child. Please can we request you keep your child's reading book in their bookbag, as due to the unpredictable nature of the Christmas half term we may need to change your child's reading book on an alternative day!

We will be engaging in focused group reading sessions this half term, where we will be practise our decoding and blending skills alongside our speaking and listening skills to develop comprehension and inference.

Fine Motor Skills & Writing

This half term we are continuing to develop our fine motor skills and dexterity to strengthen the muscles in our fingers and hands in order to establish a strong and comfortable pencil grip when writing. We are encouraging the children to use their phonological understanding when writing, listening out for the initial and other sounds in the words they want to write. We are practising using our voices alongside our writing to help us 'sound out' the words before writing them. We are continuing to develop our understanding of how the letters we have learned are formed and are practising them using different media such as paint, glitter, water and paintbrushes outdoors, chalk and sand. We are practising our pencil control by drawing lots of circles, lines, zigzags and wiggles too!

Numeracy

This half term we will be practising applying our counting skills and using them to collect and record information. We will be recording numbers in different ways and making comparisons between quantities, using numbers to 10 and beyond. We will be exploring the use of shape in different ways and using shapes to create models, pictures and patterns. On a daily basis, we will be exploring time by looking at the clock, measuring time using different equipment and thinking about different measurements of time, such as days of the week, months of the year and different times of the day eg. morning and afternoon. We will be applying our mathematical skills to solve problems too!

General Information

- * Wellies: We are currently in the process of developing our outdoor learning provision. As the weather grows colder and wetter, it is essential the children have wellies in school in order to access the outdoor provision safely. Please can you ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school as soon as possible. We go outdoors in all weathers, so please ensure your child comes to school in a suitable coat, as it is sometimes very wet and muddy!
- * Please check all of your child's uniform (including shoes!) to ensure they are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- * Please can you ensure your child's water bottle is clearly labelled with their name to avoid any confusion with similar bottles.
- * Our library day will continue to be timetabled every Thursday, however due to rehearsals for our nativity and other Christmas related activities, we may be unable to change library books each week. We thank you for your understanding and patience and will endeavour to change them as frequently as possible!

Key Dates for this half term:

- * Thursday 15th November – Nasal Flu Vaccinations
- * Friday 16th November – Non-Uniform Day (donations for the Christmas fair)
- * Friday 23rd November – Christmas Fair
- * Friday 30th November – INSET Day
- * Thursday 13th December – Foundation Stage Christmas Show at 11am.
- * Friday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner

Class Targets

- * to use tools such as scissors and glue with increasing control
- * to begin to ask and answer how and why questions
- * to take responsibility for and look after our own things eg. bookbag, coat, etc.

Wider Curriculum

This half term we will be using our key text 'The Bog Baby' as a stimulus to develop our creative skills. We will be using the pond setting from the story to explore Claude Monet's famous waterlily paintings and will be considering how we can mix colours to make them light and darker, use different tools to create texture and ultimately develop our own painting inspired by the artist. We will be considering the impact of seasonal change on the environment and creating bird feeders for the animals outdoors to eat!

Christmas

We will be beginning to practise our Christmas nativity this half term. We will be learning new songs, preparing our costumes and beginning to practise words. We will be sending home more information about the nativity later in the half term. We may need to request some items of clothing for costumes. We are encouraging the children to speak confidently and clearly and would appreciate your support in practising any words your child may have at home! We are very excited to perform our Christmas nativity for you!

Thank you for your continuing support at home.

Miss Williams & Mrs Borders