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Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Thank you for all your very kind wishes, cards and gifts over Christmas, they were very much appreciated.

We are very proud and pleased with the way the children have returned after this more exciting school holiday for them. They have been very settled and happy to return. They do often benefit from routine at this age and we definitely offer them that!

We would also like to extend our welcome to our new children and their families and say that we are very much looking forward to seeing your children settle into a happy and settled routine with us. Our existing children are looking forward to making new friends and coped brilliantly during the busy and louder drop in sessions recently. We were very proud of them, for one group it was their first session back after the holidays and the change didn't faze them at all.

As well as welcoming our new starters and completing their baselines over the coming weeks we will also be following a topic based upon Traditional tales and Nursery Rhymes. This week we will discuss our favourite stories and story-times and who these might be enjoyed with most at home.

The following week we shall be reading *The Gingerbread Man* and will be baking. Our focus will be on the changes of the different food states during the baking process whilst also encouraging the children to empathise a little with either the gingerbread man or the little old lady depending on their viewpoint! This story offers us a good chance to 'run, run as fast as we can' so some of our physical activities will be around this. We will also use shapes to recreate some of the characters too and naming these such as square, circle, rectangle, triangle and star, (our main 2-D shapes to learn).

We will then move on the following week to *Jack and the Beanstalk* which will allow us to focus on growing and what the bean needs to help it to grow well. We will also think about those people in the world who are not as lucky as ourselves.

*The Magic Porridge Pot* offers another chance to focus on food and we can talk about the importance of a healthy diet and a good breakfast. The children will be encouraged to taste some porridge and we'll also think of *Goldilocks* at this time too! There is much repetition in this book and it will be a good chance to encourage the children to join in with the refrains which is a good skill to have and fun too! This story also shows how it is good to ask for help when we need it.



The Ugly Duckling will offer us the chance to be sympathetic to the 'duckling' and help us to think about similarities and differences between us too and how we are special and unique. We will think about friends and also care and concern for others and the environment. We will be counting the ducklings and learning to count in order.

All of the weekly themes will offer us the chance to explore arty themes and activities which we enjoy.

When our new children are settled we will venture out of Nursery for our PE hall times, music studio dance or instrument sessions and also to use the computers in the ICT suite. We will be flexible with these until we are all settled.

If you have any questions at all regarding topic work or settling issues please don't hesitate to contact us or speak to a member of our staff at door time. Could we please just ask that you wait until we have welcomed the children in or seen the children safely out before you require our attention away from the children. We really don't mean to be rude but hope you will appreciate that door time is going to be busy with our extra intake and new faces to recognise. Thank you.

We always welcome help and if you think you might be interested in offering some time during the week then we need to ask you to complete a DBS check (from the main school Reception), which is for the children's safety which is standard throughout school. We would also ask that you allow your child the chance to settle before you think about doing this as it can be a fantastic time and thing to offer but can also be unsettling in the early stages when your child is just finding his or her own feet.

We will introduce weekly letter sounds and continue with a number focus too and will place the relevant focus on our Nursery Noticeboard so that you can help to reinforce these at home should you so wish.

We enjoy your support very much and appreciate the partnership between us and yourselves in your child's learning journey. We hope that their next steps continue to be happy ones. We are now using the 'Marvellous Me' App which will become a regular feature with a message sent home to yourselves for the children to understand they have done something to be proud of. Something we can all be proud of. Their little steps may then become even bigger steps.

We look forward to new friendships and fun over the coming weeks,

Thank you,

Nursery Staff, (Mrs Lewis, Mrs Little and Mrs Macfarlane).