

Reception Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

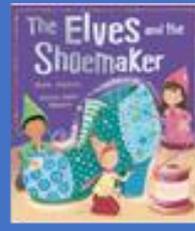
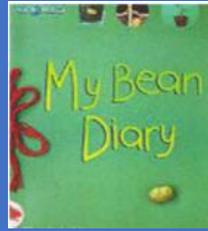
Spring Term 1

Monday 5th January 2026
to
Thursday 12th February 2026

Theme – Traditional Tales

We hope you all had a restful Christmas break and we wish all our families a very happy and healthy new year. It has been lovely to see the children again after the holidays, they all seem to have grown so much! We have lots of exciting learning ahead and we are ready for another busy and eventful half term.

What will we read this half term?



This half term our learning is all about Traditional Tales. We will share lots of tales together during story sessions and we will explore a different book in depth each week. The children will engage in various activities such as acting out the stories, creating puppets, making small world scenes, planting beans, painting, crafts, baking, designing clothes and dancing. We will also enjoy the cultural learning of Chinese New Year.

Please note that all the EYFS curriculum map can be found on the school website.

What will we learn this half term?

Communication and Language

This half term we will encourage the children to participate in lots of roleplay and acting activities as they retell the traditional tales. They will learn the key phrases from the stories and use them as they explore the different areas of learning during continuous provision. We will offer the opportunity for the children to act out their stories or perform puppet shows to their peers building confidence in their performing skills.

Other areas of focus will be to:
 Listen attentively in a range of situations.
 Maintain attention during appropriate activity.
 Engage in non-fiction books.
 Consider the listener and take turns.
 Use talk to organise/stand for something else in play.
 Begin to use past tense. Begin to recount past events.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As the children are maturing in their environment, we continue to develop their emotional wellbeing. We engage in different activities that encourages the children to see situations for different perspectives. We help the children to solve social problems while playing and talk about how situations can be resolved.

The children will also learn to:
 Show pride in achievements.
 Understand behavioural expectations of the setting.
 Can explain right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.
 Manage their own needs.
 Can identify kindness.
 Seek others to share activities and experiences.



English

The Read Write Inc. phonics sessions remain a focus of learning for the reception children and these sessions take place each morning. The children are continuing to learn the set one sounds and then using these sounds to orally blend and read words.

Children retain these sounds at different stages so some children may need longer to recap the previously taught sounds and further help to blend the sounds to read before moving on. This is normal for reception age learning but any further help at home to practise their phonics is always beneficial.

You can also follow this link for further information of the teaching and learning of phonics.



<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

This half term the children will be working on their independent writing skills. We are looking for good letter formation then moving on to attempting to write a simple three letter word from the phonics sounds. This process begins with writing the initial sound then writing all the sounds in the word. When writing at home try encouraging your child to sound out a word themselves before they attempt to write it.

Maths

This next half term we will explore numbers to 10. The focus will be on numbers 0-7 We will compare the numbers, make number pairs, work with the number zero, combine 2 groups, compare mass, compare capacity, and begin to explore time.

This work follows the White Rose Scheme of work for spring. The maths work will be explored through the classroom theme, through the inside and outdoor classroom and by using real life resources and practical activities.

Understanding the World

The children will understand the value of being curious and interested in finding out about people within their own community and in other countries - special places and events or objects – through non-fiction texts, stories, and celebrations.



Events and Festivals

Winter - The change of the seasons observing and discussing the effects of cold weather on ourselves, plants and animals.

Chinese New Year

Valentine Day

Expressive Arts and Design

Through the Chinese New Year festival, the children will create dragons, make masks and learn a dragon dance. They will continue to develop their cutting skills and explore the different tools to make puppets and small world scenes. The children will design, create and evaluate making clothes for the elves and they will express their creativity when designing a new pair of dancing shoes.



They will learn an array of dance styles from different countries and perform them to their peers. They will continue to learn familiar nursery rhymes and retell their favourite traditional tales through simple songs and dance.

Physical Development

During this half term we will continue to develop the children's fine motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. We will be working on using the correct grip of the pencil when writing and ensuring the children use good lower case letter formation when writing their name. The children will be supported, where needed with scissor control any help you can give the children at home with cutting skills will be beneficial for activities in school. The PE session this half term is dance. They will learn and create dances to nursery rhymes using their own interpretation and movement as different characters.

Little People Big Dreams

This half term we will learn all about Hans Christian Anderson this links with our English work about Traditional Tales.



General Information

Tapestry – Please speak to a member of staff if you are still experiencing problems accessing your Tapestry account as we use this system to communicate quickly with parents / carers.

Getting Changed – Please continue to encourage your child to be independent when getting dressed, these skills will help when we get changed for PE and when putting coats on for outdoor play. Many thanks.

Water Bottles – Please can the children bring their water bottle to school each day. It is important they have the opportunity to drink water throughout the day,

Clothing – A quick reminder to check that all items of clothing are named, including (where possible) hats, scarves and gloves. Last term we have a lot of unclaimed items.

Toys – If you have any toys that your child no longer plays with we are always grateful to receive these donations to use in the classroom.

Thank you for all your support with your child's phonics and reading. It really makes a difference to their progress when the children share exciting story books at home.

Please do not hesitate to speak to your teacher if you require any further information or help with any aspects of school life.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

The Reception Team