



## Playgroup News – Monday 7th February 2022



Hello Everyone... Here is our Playgroup News for this week...

### Look what we've been up to over the past few weeks!

This week the Squirrel children have been continuing to explore the new wooden toys, categorising them by colour and size. They have been exploring the outdoor environment through visiting the school grounds and using the bikes on the playground, going on nature walks and investigating the Nature Area looking for different birds and listening to the different noises they can hear. In the garden, the children have continued to develop their physical skills through building and balancing with the soft play and in the indoor environment, the children have been practicing their fine motor skills through mark making using shaving foam and paint. At circle times, the Squirrel children are continuing to develop their language through singing familiar songs.



This week the Penguin children have continued to enjoy building and constructing with the junk modelling, remaining interested in develop their scissor skills and promoting their critical thinking skills. They have also used their problem solving skills to develop a small world area using loose parts, cars and ramps. The children have also been engaged in a 'supermarket' theme outdoors, role-playing going to the shops, being the 'check out' operator and creating shopping lists. The children are also having many opportunities through both adult led activities and child initiated activities to develop their mathematical knowledge through games and sorting. You can support your child at home with this by playing board games such as 'Snakes and Ladders.'

Please remember to check Tapestry for more information about what your children have been learning over the past few weeks.

### Important Notices

- The Newsletter will now be distributed monthly instead of weekly- the next newsletter you receive will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Please can you ensure you pick your child up promptly from us first if you have older children at the school to collect. Some children are getting distressed and upset if they are late being collected.
- Please can you refrain from allowing your child to bring toys in from home, we cannot be responsible if these toys get lost or broken and children get very upset when this happens.

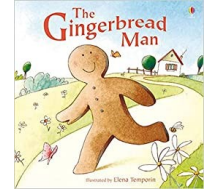
**BROWN BEAR,  
BROWN BEAR,  
WHAT DO YOU SEE?**



Bill Martin Jr. / Eric Carle

## Story Making

This term our story making texts are:  
**Brown Bear, Brown Bear- Squirrel Children**  
**The Gingerbread Man- Penguin Children**



The Squirrel Children have now completed their story making for this term and over the next few weeks they will be enjoying familiar, interactive stories during their circle times.

The Penguin children have completed their story maps and are now focussing on changing a part of the story and thinking of a new idea, for example, 'What would happen if the wolf didn't eat the Gingerbread Man?' 'What could the old man and old lady bake instead of a Gingerbread Man?' Once they have finished with this element of the story, the children will continue to act out of the story for the final week of term.

## MAKATON

Each week we learn a new MAKATON sign and the signs we have been learning over the last week is: **GOODBYE**. Up until half term we will be learning: **MILK** and **WATER**



Wave with one or two hands as appropriate



**Goodbye**



**Milk**



**Water**

## COVID 19 and Staffing

All staff are continuing to take Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly and we have been extremely lucky that we have had no cases of Covid-19 this term.

However, cases continue to rise and if we were to receive a positive test result from a member/s of staff then it is likely we would have no other option but to close the setting.

In order for your children to be safe in an education setting, we legally have to adhere to adult : child ratio's and if we were unable to meet these ratio's then we would have no other option but to close until we could legally meet these. If this were to happen we would inform you via email. We are continuing with our control measures to minimise the spread of the virus, through frequent hand washing, ventilation and long periods of outdoor play.

## Dates for the Diary

- **End of Term- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**
- **Start of Term- Spring Term B- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

