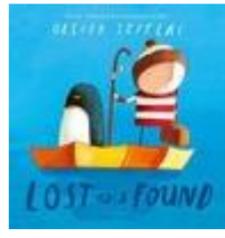


# Reception – Spring 1 Learning Journey



## Reading – Our Texts This Term

This term we will be introducing our new topic 'Wonderful Winter.' Some of the books we will be exploring for this theme will include:

**One Snowy Night (Nick Butterworth)** - One cold winter's night Percy hears a tap at his door and finds a squirrel on his doorstep wanting shelter from the snow. Percy is soon joined by the rest of his animal friends and has quite a job fitting them all in.

**Lost and Found (Oliver Jeffers)** - There once was a boy and one day a penguin arrives on his doorstep. The boy decides the penguin must be lost and tries to return him but no one seems to be missing a penguin. The boy decides to take the penguin home himself, and they set out in his row boat on a journey to the South Pole.

**The Gruffalo's Child (Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler)** - After learning about the Big Bad Mouse, Gruffalo's daughter chooses to ignore her father's warnings and embarks on a journey to find the creature in the dangerously cold winter.

**Scaredy Squirrel (Melanie Watt)** - Scaredy Squirrel is a comical story of an endearing squirrel who learns what can happen when he's brave enough to take a risk.

We will be placing a key focus on children understanding the way stories are structured whilst making comparisons to non-fiction texts too.

In phonics, the children will begin to read and spell CVC words whilst developing a phonological awareness of how words are made. They will begin to write simple captions and phrases as we embed strategies for spelling such as 'Fred Fingers'.



## Maths

This term we will be looking at addition and subtraction, extending our learning by looking at different ways to solve a problem. We will be using strategies such as combining two groups and finding the total and counting on using a number-line.

We will be counting objects and images upto five by noticing the pattern. The children already have fantastic subitising skills using regular patterns and we will be extending this. For example we will show the children a group of objects and ask 'what do you see and how do you see it?' The children may notice that there is a group of three and a group of two so will know that there are five altogether. They do not need to count them as they are able to subitise to find the total.

## Writing

The focus will be on children being able to write lists, labels and captions by embedding the 'Fred Fingers' phonic strategy for spelling.

To support with pencil control and pencil grip, we will concentrate on building up muscle memory in our hands and wrists. This will be encouraged by fine motor activities in the finger gym, daily scissor cutting activities at the creative table and playdough/clay moulding activities in malleable areas. These activities will help them choose a dominant hand to hold a pencil comfortably, using the tripod grip.

All children will be encouraged to be brave writers through a range of mark making activities within the environment and within specific, dedicated learning time. They will explore writing for a purpose as we immerse them into each core text in experience days.

## Communication and Language

We will be focusing on embedding previous work on partnership talk during carpet sessions. Children will be learning to express their opinions and ideas using 'talk partners' in order to feedback to the rest of the class.

Learning new vocabulary will be an ongoing priority for children, links will be made with visual and concrete resources, to truly master and embed new words, phrases and concepts from core texts that we will be reading. This will be in all subject areas and where possible linked.

Children will be engaging in story times to describe characters, settings, problems and solutions in some detail ready for writing.

## Our theme

As part of our theme of "Wonderful Winter", we will be learning about the wider world and explore maps to find our city and our country or home countries. We will compare our locality to places that are a stark contrast to this environment. We will use rich vocabulary to describe what we hear, see and feel outside.

We will be exploring the outside world and learning about habitats and what animals need to survive in the cold weather in our local community and in other locations.

We use technology and non-fiction texts to find out about contrasting environments.

## PE

We will continue to develop our gross motor skills and coordination by revising and refining the fundamental movement skills already acquired and then progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.

## Celebrations

This term we would like to celebrate the diversity of our children and their families. We will be creating a family area and look forward to sharing all of your wonderful photographs.

## Expressive Art and Design

As part of our learning around the outside world, we will be exploring colours and combining media to create new effects in creative pieces such as designing new habitats for the animals. Children will be learning to manipulate and join different materials creating junk model designs. Our role play areas, will focus on the children's interests and adapted as we observe play and what the children need to develop their own narratives in this area.

## Important Days

PE: Mondays

Homework: goes out Friday to be returned no later than Wednesday