

PANDAS' TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2026

Far, far away (7 1/2 Weeks)



During these seven weeks, the children in Pandas will be taking part in lots of settling-in activities and our topic this half term will focus on fairy tales! During this topic, the children will be immersed in a wide range of traditional stories and fairy tales. Our main focus will be on the stories of Cinderella and The Gingerbread Man. The children will then learn how to listen to, follow and/or write instructions in order to bake their own gingerbread man biscuits. To grow the children's love of stories and reading, we will be going on a visit to the local library on **Thursday 22nd October**. Our children working within the Early Years framework will engage with our fairy tale topic through short adult-led inputs and related play-based activities.



In maths, the children will be focusing on number recognition, counting, place value and addition and subtraction in line with their understanding. In science, the children will be exploring and learning about large habitats and/or identifying outdoor features. In art they will be mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and use shapes to create art inspired by Paul Klee. In Geography, we will be learning about where in the world we live, what a country is and the UK. The children will also learn through discover and explore sessions, applying what they have learnt into their play.

Home Learning Activity

There are many activities that you could do to support our topic at home. We do understand that life at home is very busy but it is really good for the children to see that learning extends beyond the classroom. Below are a few ideas that could inspire you:

- You could visit your local library, borrow fairy tale stories and then share them with your child and enjoy the stories. You could take pictures of your child enjoying the stories.
- You could create your own character mask! This could be anything from a wolf to a princess.
- You could encourage your child to make up two of their own fairy tale characters, one 'good' and one 'bad', drawing and if able to; writing about each character.
- You could create a picture of a fairy tale castle or recreate a home for your favourite fairy tale character with your child choosing any material to use, e.g., pencil, paint or chalk, or even use Lego, play dough, or cardboard.

We look forward to seeing your fantastic home learning. Each child will be able to share their home learning with the class and will receive a certificate for completing it too.

Please can you send in your child's home learning at the latest by **Friday 16th October 2026**.

PE

Our PE this half term will be indoors, therefore the children will be in shorts and a t-shirt. Over this half term, the children will take part in dance lessons where they will be learning an African inspired dance routine. Towards the end of the half term the children will perform their dance to the children in the Canford Heath Junior School SLCN Resource Base (Koalas).



Forest School – The children will go to Forest School every Monday starting from the 21st of September. They will be using the natural resources in their play and the use of some tools will be introduced/ developed. Please send in a pair of wellies with your child in preparation for this date. We will provide your child with waterproof overalls.

Your child's PE bag will be sent home at the end of each half term for a wash. Please ensure that a full kit is provided. Any earrings must be removed (tape is not permitted) on PE days and long hair must always be tied back.

PSHE & Religion and Worldviews

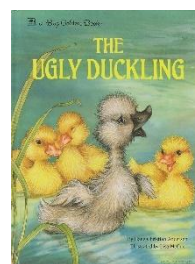
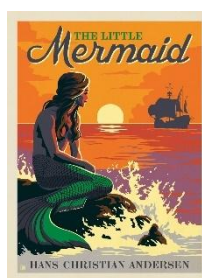
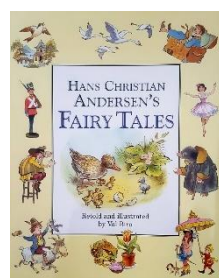
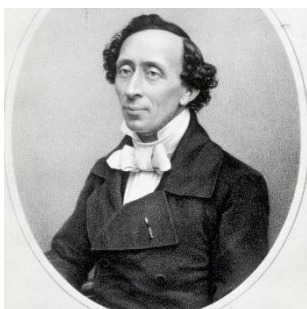
This half term, the focus for our PSHE lessons will be 'All About Me'. This will involve learning about our classroom rules and routines, learning about emotions and how our behaviour can impact others.

In Religion and Worldviews, the children will be learning about Christianity. We will be discussing what Christians believe about God, Jesus and looking after the world.



Focus Author

This half term our amazing author is Hans Christian Andersen who has written many well-known fairy tales. We will be reading a range of different fairy tales from a variety of authors who have been inspired by this famous Danish writer.



Supporting at Home

We are so incredibly proud of the children and the hard work that they are putting into their learning. We know that this is due to the partnership we have formed with you as parents and carers. Please continue to read with your child at least 3 times a week and record this in their reading record if your child is in Year 1 and 2. If you're unsure about how to support your child with their learning at home, please let us know and we will be more than willing to help and support you.

Calendar Dates

2nd September – Year 1 and 2 children return to school - Wellbeing day 1
3rd and 4th September – Home visits for EYFS children. Wellbeing days 2 and 3
8th September – EYFS children in 1 morning.
14th – 18th September – EYFS in all week from 8:30- 1:15pm
16th September – Parent/carers information evening for Pandas (Location: Panda's classroom)
21st – 25th September – EYFS in all day
30th September – School photos
20th October – Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm (letter to follow)
21st October – Parents Evening 4:30pm-7:30pm (letter to follow)
22nd October – Pandas' library visit
Friday 23rd October – Sponsored Read Launch and Julia Donaldson dress up day

Specific letters about some of these events will follow shortly.

Thank you for your support.

Miss White and the Pandas' team