



YEAR 1 TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1 Term 2026

Once Upon a Time... (8 weeks)

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 The Gingerbread Man, Jack and the Beanstalk and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children will then learn how to read, sequence and write instructions in order to bake their own gingerbread men. As part of this wonderful topic, the children will be walking to Canford Heath Library (dates below), where they will listen to a range of fairy tales. In the afternoons, the children will be continuing their learning through Discover and Explore, which the children are used to from EYFS. In science, the children will be looking at different materials and describing their properties. In art, they will be mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and selecting materials to build their own castles.



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 and encourage them to write a sentence about which stories they liked and why.
- You could encourage your child to make up two of their own fairy tale characters, one 'good' and one 'bad', drawing and 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 9th October 2026**.

PE – Gymnastics and Fundamental Skills

This term, in PE, the children will be improving their gymnastic skills. In outdoor PE, we follow a scheme called 'Get Set PE' which focuses on the development of agility, coordination and cooperative learning.

Squirrels: Indoor PE – Monday

Outdoor PE – Wednesday

Badgers: Indoor PE – Thursday

Outdoor PE – Monday



Hedgehogs: Indoor PE – Wednesday Outdoor PE– Tuesday

Rabbits: Indoor PE – Tuesday Outdoor PE– Thursday

Please ensure that a full kit is provided, including shorts for indoor PE and long tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE. Any earrings must be removed on PE days (tape is no longer allowed). Please ensure that all PE kit is named. Your child's PE bag will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed.

PSHE and Religion and Worldviews

PSHE will be delivered using many resources from a programme known as JIGSAW. The sessions use friendly characters to help the children learn more about personal, social, emotional and cultural themes. This term, our PSHE work will focus on 'Being in My World'. The children will think about and discuss their aspirations for the new school year and will be supported to develop new friendships in their classes, learning about themselves and each other. These sessions will be taught in whole class sessions, circle times and assemblies. We will continue linking the lessons to our school values of trust, excellence, aspirations, collaboration and honesty, alongside the rights and responsibilities of the child. In Religion and Worldviews, we will be looking at The Christian Creation Story and how this impacts what most Christians feel about looking after the world around them

Focus Author

This half term, we will focus on authors who have written fairy tale stories to help with our literacy.

Calendar Dates

Thursday 17th September – Walk to the library (Badgers PM)

Friday 18th September – Walk to the library (Squirrels AM & Hedgehogs PM)

Monday 21st September – Walk to the library (Rabbits AM)

Wednesday 30th September - Fraser Photography in school for individual and sibling photos

Tuesday 1st October – Parent information evening 3.30pm-5.30pm

Thursday 1st October – Friendship Day

Monday 5th October - PATCH school disco from 5

Wednesday 7th October – PATCH AGM at CHJS school at 6:30pm

Tuesday 20th October – Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm (letter to follow)

Wednesday 21st October – Parents Evening 4:30pm-7:30pm (letter to follow)

Friday 23rd October – Sponsored Read Launch and Julia Donaldson dress up day

Additional dates maybe added over the half term. Please check the school calendar regularly.

If you have any questions about our learning, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your continued support,

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Watson, Miss Laws, Mrs Richards, Mrs Lee and Mrs Baker