

# Ladybirds Class

## Important information



### Spring term themes: Magic! then Olden Days

We will focus on learning about lots of types of magic through magical stories. We will use texts to signpost a variety of child-led activities including potion making, magical journeys and dressing up. Then, after half term, our topic is Olden days where we will look at stories, videos and objects from the past and we will have a trip to Chertsey museum

We also incorporate seasonal events into our days including making porridge, looking for signs of Spring, Chinese New Year and the start of Lent in the run up to Easter.

#### Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you all have had a good break. This term we will exciting activities to enrich our topics. Mrs. White will continue to teach the class with the support of Miss Davies, Miss Joseph and Miss Wade. Miss Shand will teach on a Thursday morning and Friday afternoon.

#### Overview:

A home learning newsletter with activity suggestions will be sent home on a Thursday. This may be a number or phonics activity, or to share an experience on Tapestry e.g. spotting daffodils on a walk. The task will often be open ended and most activities will be practical or talk based. Every Tuesday the children will be given a levelled reading book. They will also be tested on the caterpillar words and sounds, so please keep practising these. Please comment and sign the reading record so we know you have read with your child at least four times a week.

**Parents evening:** For your reference, our Spring term Parents Evening meetings will be held this term on Tuesday 5th March, in the School Hall. For full information about forthcoming important dates for the school year, including class assemblies, please refer to our website and our fortnightly "Headlines" newsletter and Ladybirds weekly newsletter.

#### School Uniform:

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. On Tuesdays, children will need to wear to school their PE kit (red t-shirt, black shorts, red sweatshirt and black tracksuit trousers) for PE sessions which will take place in the afternoon. They will not require to wear uniform on this day. Children are not permitted to wear earrings in PE lessons, so earrings should be removed at home. **PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL UNIFORM IS LABELLED INCLUDING SHOES and P.E. KIT.**

**Water Bottles:** Please ensure your child brings in a **named** water bottle, that they recognise and open, so that they can help themselves to a drink when needed. Children take their water bottle home every day to be washed and refilled. Children are welcome to bring a fruit/vegetable snack or two, although the council will supply free fruit. Milk bar is open at 10am every day.

We have high expectations of the children in Ladybirds and wish to celebrate their success. Your child and the class will be rewarded with stickers (for their individual sticker chart), certificates and raffle tickets and gems (whole class reward). These rewards will be given for effort, kindness, politeness and good behaviour and we know that you will enjoy sharing their achievements. We also send home 'proud clouds' which are notelet that can be completed at home and shared in class e.g. 'We are proud of James today as he got dressed all by himself'. These are displayed on our proud cloud wall. If you have any questions, then please contact me during work hours using the email below.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs. White  
[mrswhite@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:mrswhite@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk)

# Ladybirds Weekly Overview

Spring Term  
'Magic!' and 'Olden Days'



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- playing with friends
- sharing and taking turns
- looking after ourselves and learning about self-regulation
- being support others when they are having difficulty



## Communication and Language

- following instructions
- retelling parts of a story
- communicating wants and needs clearly
- role play
- telling stories using pictures



## Physical Development

- washing our hands
- gross and fine motor skill development
- finger strengthening exercises and pencil control
- PE - Sessions on a Tuesday. Wear PE uniform on this day.
- Daily playground sessions



## Literacy

- name writing and sentence writing
- weekly rhymes
- phonics phase 3 and high frequency words
- reading - individual, group, caterpillar words
- learning a weekly text
- mark making/early writing



## Mathematics

- number bonds
- more/less/equal
- subitising
- addition
- capacity
- puzzles and construction
- shapes

## Understanding the World



- Seasons: Winter and Spring
- Helping wildlife
- Learning about significant dates inc. Chinese New Year and Lent
- How life was different in the olden days



## Expressive Arts and Design

- music sessions
- role play
- arts and crafts
- seasonal art
- artist of the month



## Outdoor learning

- developing social skills
- building confidence
- teamwork
- risk taking
- exploring

## Other things you could do/ places to visit:

- Look for signs of Spring
- Use your learning in life skills e.g. cooking and gardening using maths skills
- Visit museums as part of our Olden Days museum
- Play games with family members