

# Ladybirds Class

## Important information



### Spring term themes:

#### **Magic and Powers! then Olden Days**

We will focus on learning about lots of types of magic and powers through wonderful stories. We will use texts to signpost a variety of child-led activities including potion making, magical concepts, and dressing up.

Then, after half term, our topic is Olden days where we will look at stories, videos and objects from the past, focus on stories written by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.

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

#### **Dear parents/carers,**

This term we will be taking part in exciting, practical activities to enrich our topics. Mrs. Bywater will teach the class with the support of Miss Davies, Miss Wade and Miss Chennell. Miss Hancox will teach on a Wednesday afternoon.

#### **Overview:**

A home learning newsletter with activity suggestions will be sent home at the end of each week. This may be a maths or phonics activity, or to share an experience on Tapestry e.g. spotting daffodils on a Spring walk. The task will often be open ended and most activities will be practical or talk based. Every Monday 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 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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/snack:** Please ensure your child brings in a **named** water bottle, that they recognise and can open, so that they can help themselves to a drink when needed. 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, 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 Freddie 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. Bywater

[mrsbywater@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:mrsbywater@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk)



# Ladybirds Weekly Overview

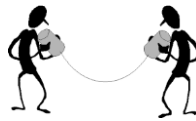
Spring Term

'Magic and Powers!' and 'Olden Days'



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Playing with friends
- Sharing and taking turns
- Looking after ourselves and learning about self-regulation
- Supporting 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



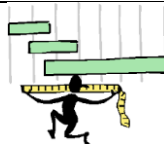
## Physical Development

- 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
- Puzzles and construction
- Shapes

## Understanding the World



- Seasons: Winter and Spring
- Around the world themed week
- Helping wildlife
- Learning about significant dates inc. Lent
- How life was different in the olden days



## Expressive Arts and Design

- Music sessions
- Role play
- Imaginative story telling
- Arts and crafts
- Seasonal art
- Artist of the month



## Outdoor learning

- Developing social skills
- Building confidence
- Teamwork
- Risk taking
- Exploring (nature)

## 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 topic
- Play games with family members