

Miss Chapman,
Miss Matthews and
Mrs Hudson

Foundation Stage Spring Term 2025



Diary Dates

- Half Term Week :
Monday, 17th February
- World Book Day:
6th March
- FS2 Parent Consultations—
25th March 3.30-7.00pm
and 26th March 1.30-
4.00pm
- FS1 Stay and Play Sessions
Friday, 21st March 9-11am
and 12.30-2.30pm
- End of Term: Friday, 4th
April.

Other Information

- **Rainbow Fish** Children should bring their PE kits into school and then leave them on their peg until half-term.
- **Rainbow Fish** Reading books are changed every Monday. **Caterpillar** and **Gruffalo** children's Library books are changed every Thursday.

Fundraising for our outdoor musical area.



Coming soon—a cake stall

We need to add to our Musical Extravaganza funds and, how better to do that than to make, sell and eat cakes!

BRW
SPIRIT
STRONG

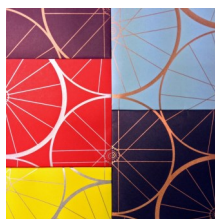
Miss Chapman, Miss Matthews, Mrs Hudson and all of the staff in the Foundation Stage offer a very warm welcome to our new children starting this term and, of course, a warm welcome back to our existing children. Our topic this term is :

Who lives in this castle?

We will be sharing traditional stories which include castles and finding out the answer to this question. We will also be visiting our very own, local



castle of Nottingham—*yipes*—look out for the Sheriff!



Focus Activities and learning that the children will take part in are: investigating floating and sinking and comparing our country with hot places (linked with the Owl and the Pussy Cat), talking about parties past and present (linked to Cinderella) and learning about the artist Dan Mather and how to print to create art work (see left).

As always, our Come and See topics will be woven tightly into every area of learning as children learn to recognise the stories of the Epiphany, of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple, Jesus with the children and, of course, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as religious stories they know and love. They will also find out more about how the Parish gathers in the church to celebrate together.



All children will also improve their core strength and co-ordination by taking part in Drum Fit sessions and yoga with Mrs Bathgate. They will also learn how to look after their bodies when feeling poorly and how people change as they grow up. This is underpinned by the religious understanding that growing up is part of God's plan for our lives, and that we are loved by Him at every life stage. (Relationship and Health Education).



Lastly, but definitely not least, because, in the Early Years we **LOVE** maths. The children will continue to use the counting collections, stories and songs to practise counting, comparing and noticing change and composition as they learn about numbers to 5, 10 and beyond.

Our role play areas will include a hairdressers, a party shop, a church and a flower shop.



Parent Links: If they have not arrived in your home already, these will be coming your way:

- The Caring Kit (looking after our world)
- Prayer Bear (keep for one night only)
- Lenten Bag (keep for one night only)
- Challenge: Design a Crown



How you can help support our topic.....



Please read these traditional stories:

Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk and The Owl and the Pussy Cat

Please share the poems from the Poetry Basket collection—we will let you know which one, which week via the weekly updates.



Talk about and share photographs at home when you enjoyed family celebrations together.

Use bricks or junk box modelling to bring the stories to life eg Make a palace for Cinderella; a castle for the giant or a boat for the Owl and Pussy Cat to share.

We will continue to keep you informed by sending out weekly updates via e-mail, but will also use the school website:

<http://brwacademy.com>

to share and celebrate the children's work.
Please come and talk to us about any questions you may have.

Forest School sessions at Glapton Wood will be going ahead and we will let you know of the dates your child will be involved.



Forest Schools is a unique and powerful opportunity for children to develop their relationships, resourcefulness, resilience and their ability to reflect in an outdoor, open-ended environment.

Helping at Home: Handwriting

Writing is so much more than just letter formation. Pre-writing (mark making) is important as it gets the muscles working in the hands with drawing, colouring etc before moving on to writing letters. The following links have some fun ideas to support your child's writing development:



[Learning to Write | Early Writing Activities - YouTube](#)

[21 Fun Handwriting Activities for Kids \(thekindergartenconnection.com\)](http://thekindergartenconnection.com)

For FS2 children, all of the above are important, but we are also working on controlling letter size and formation. Lots of practising to keep letters sitting on lines (using ascenders and descenders) and using a comfortable pincer grip. The half-termly Phonics sheets will support their handwriting.



Examples:

b d h

ascenders

a c e

x-height letters

g j p

descenders

