



**Dallington CEP
The Street
Dallington
East Sussex
TN21 9NH**

Dallington Class



**Summer 2023:
Reception/Year 1
Once Upon A Time**

Dear parents and carers,

Here we are in the summer term already! The year so far has flown by and we are so proud of how far the children have come since September. We have further still to go, of course, and are very much looking forward to this final phase of the year.

Our whole school theme for the summer term is *Once Upon a Time*, which gives us lots of scope for some wonderful learning. Our key text for term 5 is the traditional tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*, through which we will give the topic a seasonal twist, linking in springtime, planting and growing. The children will discover that a mysterious beanstalk has grown in Dallington Class and will be thinking about what might be at the top! We will be having a go at writing our own version of the story, and will be thinking about things from the giant's perspective too.

We will be keeping things supersized with our second book of the term, which is another traditional tale in keeping with our *Once Upon a Time* theme: *The Gigantic Turnip*. Then we will jump to the opposite end of the size spectrum with *The Tiny Seed* to continue our exploration into planting and growing. The children will be growing their own cress plants to bring to life the tiny seed's journey from seed to plant. We will also use this text as a starting point to explore the art and stories of Eric Carle. We will end the term with the lovely text *Bloom*, celebrating kindness, friendship and flowers!

In term six, our theme will take an exciting turn, as we enjoy stories about some unlikely superheroes including *Supertato*, *Superworm* and the *Koala Who Could*. We will also learn about environmental heroes through the key text *Greta and the Giants*, as well as the fiction books *Litterbug Doug* and *George Saves the World by Lunchtime*. We will also be going on a school trip—our reception children's first one—in this term. More information to follow!

If you would like to join the Dallington Class fun, we always very much welcome parent helpers in the classroom, in particular hearing the children read. If you could spare an hour a week to help out then we would be very pleased indeed to have you! Do let us know in class or via the office if you are able to help.

As ever, we hope to be outside as much as possible this term, and are looking forward to some warmer weather as we do so! However, in true British summertime style, we would be grateful if you could ensure that your child has a waterproof coat and named pair of wellies in school at all times, as well as a sunhat and sun cream for warmer weather.

Show and Tell will continue to be on Friday afternoons. Mrs Dipple will share an updated rota on Tapestry telling you when your child's turn is.

Please do let us know if you have any questions about your child's learning—our door is always open. Please do continue to share your child's achievements and news on Tapestry too.

Many thanks for your continued support,

The Dallington Class team

Communication and Language

This term we will continue to maintain focus on developing our listening, attention, understanding and speaking skills. We will be further developing our ability to listen attentively and respond to what we hear with questions, comments and actions. We will participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions and hold conversations that require back and forth exchanges.

We will continue to develop our vocabulary through stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and express our ideas and feelings using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support.

In term six we will be learning a poem to recite as a class - we look forward to sharing it with you!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In term five we will be focusing on perseverance - setting our own goals, working to achieve them, reflecting on the outcomes and self evaluating our work. We will be thinking about how to show resilience in the face of challenge and developing confidence to try new things.

Through our text Bloom, we will be thinking about kindness as a superpower, exploring how in the story it overcomes anger and selfishness.

In term six, our attention will turn to times of change, as we begin to think about our transition to Woods Corner class and we celebrate all of the wonderful things we have achieved in Dallington Class this year.

Physical Development

Dallington Class are super movers already, and so this term our gross motor development will focus on further developing confidence, precision and accuracy in the fundamental movement skills already acquired, as well as combining different movements with ease and fluency.

In PE, we will be going swimming in term 5. We have two fantastic swimming teachers who will support the children to build confidence in the water, learn water safety and begin to develop swimming skills. In term 6 we will be jumping, throwing, running and preparing for sports day!

In fine motor development, we will be continuing to work on holding a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing, using the tripod grip in almost all cases.

Literacy

We will continue to hook our learning around our wonderful key texts this term, using the stories to open up new worlds, new vocabulary and new learning adventures for the children. We will develop our inference skills, practise making predictions, and have a go at innovating well known stories by creating our own versions.

In writing, the children will be challenged to write a simple narrative, to think about different types of writing, to reread what they have written to check it makes sense, and to use writing within their play.

In phonics, we are working on phase four, which focuses on longer words that contain consonant clusters. The children have now learnt all of the sounds covered in the EYFS curriculum and know a grapheme for all 44 sounds in the English language, so in theory can use this knowledge to phonetically write any word they want! We will continue to learn a new "tricky word" each week, and we will continue to develop our segmenting and blending skills to read and write.

Reading

The children have been making fantastic progress with reading! Thank you for all your support at home; please do continue to read with your child every day if possible as it really is the single biggest thing you can do to support their learning. If you find they are just too tired to read their school book, then share a favourite story with them instead. Please do let us know if your child is reluctant to read at home, so we can endeavour to support further.

The children will be given a new reading book aligned to their current phonics learning whenever they have read the previous book at least three times - at home or school. Please do fill in your child's reading record every time they read with an adult at home. We would be very grateful if you could also ensure that your child's reading folder is in their book bag every day.

As well as the digital library of reading books that can be accessed on your child's Bug Club account, we will also be assigning some additional phonics games to this platform to help them practise their phonics skills and the sounds we have learnt in terms 3 and 4.

Maths

In maths, we are continuing to follow the Mastering Number curriculum set by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. We have been so impressed by the children's progress and the deep understanding of counting, cardinality, composition and comparison that they are demonstrating.

This term we will continue to further consolidate our counting skills, counting to larger numbers, applying a wider range of counting strategies and developing a sense of magnitude. We will also secure our knowledge of number facts through varied practice.

We will explore a range of representations of numbers, including the 10-frame, and will develop conceptual subitising skills using a rekenrek. We will continue our work on doubles and one more/less than, as well as our exploration of the pattern of the counting system to 20 and beyond.

Understanding the World

The children will be taking part in many topic-related activities that will help develop their understanding of the world, particularly around growing, planting and the seasons of spring and summer. These will include: learning about the life cycle of a plant, growing cress from seed, planting seeds and bulbs, and observational drawings of flowers.

Expressive Arts and Design

We encourage the children to be imaginative and to explore and use different media and materials every day. Planned activities include: mixed media collages, colour mixing to make a whole class beanstalk, painting in the style of Van Gogh, making our own harps, painting with flowers and exploring the artwork of Eric Carle.

The children will also be able to express their ideas through dance and music and through role play opportunity in our home corner and Jack's cottage (the play house!).

RE

In RE this term we will be sharing and exploring religious stories from Christianity, Judaism and Islam. In the following term we will think about places that are important to us and learn about places of worship and why they are important to people.

Hands-on learning

Our learning is very hands-on and as a result the children can be rather messy at the end of the day. We are very grateful for your understanding!