



Welcome to Conkers Class!

Spring 1 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a happy new year to you all! Our topic this half term is 'Once Upon a Time' and we have many exciting things planned for the children. We're especially looking forward to our Launch where we will make and decorate gingerbread biscuits and complete various activities based on 'The Gingerbread Man' story.

Thank you, Mrs Milson and Mrs Bedford

PE on Mondays and Fridays

Conkers children will continue to have PE on a Monday afternoon with the Hawkes team. Your child can continue to come to school on a Monday wearing their PE kits, as this saves a lot of time having to get changed. A complete PE kit includes: black or blue trousers/ shorts, plain white or blue t-shirt, plain blue/black jumper and suitable outdoor trainers.

Mrs Bedford will be teaching Dance in PE on a Friday mornings, and again children can come to school on a Friday wearing their PE kits.

Reading

Please continue to log into the E-collins page, using your username and password. Please encourage your child to read at least 3 times a week as this will really improve their confidence and fluency.

Spelling Homework

The children will continue to be given spellings to learn. Year 1s and 2s will also complete a spelling test, with the 10 spellings they've been given to learn each Monday, so please encourage them to practise. The reception children will be given two or three activity sheets to help them practise the phonemes and graphemes they are learning each week. Please remind your child to bring their spelling books into school every Monday.

Staff teaching timetable

Monday: Mrs Milson

Thursday: Mrs Bedford

Tuesday: Mrs Milson

Friday: Mrs Bedford and

Wednesday: Mrs Milson (am)

Mrs Stockill

Mrs Mitchelmore (am)

Mrs Mitchell (pm)

Mrs Bedford (pm)

Spare recycled resources

The children are always making things with recycled materials so we are continuously needing to replenish the resources. We would still love any recycled items you may have at home for our arts and crafts and deconstruction area such as: pine cones and buttons. Any of these items would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much in advance!

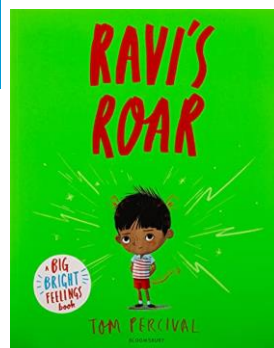
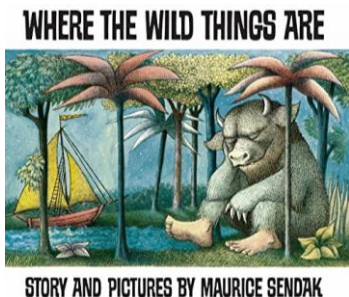
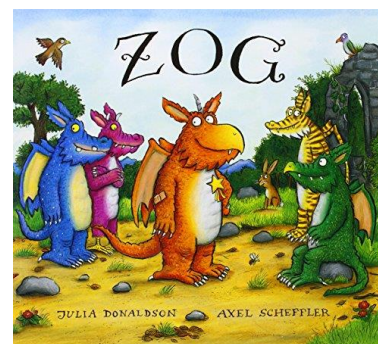
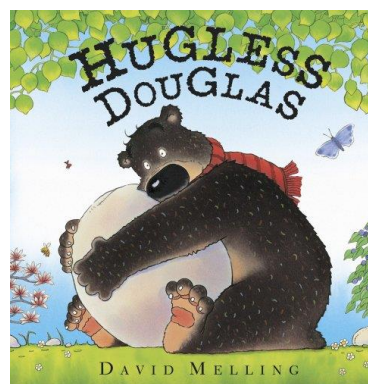
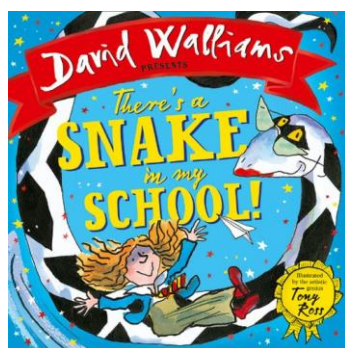
Please also send in your old and used Christmas cards. Conkers children will enjoy writing in them and making pictures with them next year.

Old toys and games

In history, your child is learning about how toys and games children played have changed over the last century. Please encourage your child to bring an old toy or game into school, to share and talk about in class. If you have any photos of yourselves or your grandparents playing with these toys, they would be fabulous to share too.

Talk Through Stories

This half term, we will be continuing to focus on tier 2 words that children don't generally use in their day to day conversations. We will be reading a different book every week and focussing on 2 tier 2 words each day. These are the front covers of the books we're going to read this half term. If you have these at home, please read and talk about the pictures with your child.





What are we learning about?

In English, your child will be writing an autobiography about themselves. They will also write a character profile about characters from the book we have chosen to focus on this half term: 'The Gingerbread Man'. Following this, your child will also create a non-chronological report about an animal character from the book.

In maths, Reception children will be learning about length, height, mass and capacity. They will also explore the values of numbers up to 10, make pairs and combine two amounts. Year 1 children will be learning about the place value of numbers followed by addition and subtraction and how they can be used to create fact families. Year 2 children will learn to solve 2 step word problems involving money including finding total amounts and change. They will then learn about multiplication and division by grouping and sharing.

In Science, your child will be exploring the similarities and differences in their own features and label the basic body parts on the human body. They will also learn the importance of humans having the right amount of daily exercise and eating a balanced diet.

In History, your child will be learning about the history of toys and how the materials used to make them have changed over the years. They will investigate the properties of the materials used to make the toys and games, and compare toys made a few decades ago with more modern battery-operated toys.

In computing, your child will use '2 create a Story' and '2 Paint a Picture' to develop an animated version of 'The Ginger Bread Man' story.

In PE, Mr Hawkes will be teaching your child a range of locomotor, stability and balancing skills.

In PE, Mrs Bedford will be introducing your child to the dance to different types of music linked to various toys throughout the decades.

In Design Technology, your child will be making and evaluating their own hand puppet based on a character from 'The Gingerbread Man'. They can choose to create a horse, cockerel, pig or cow puppet, and this will allow them to practise threading a needle and their running stitch skills.

In Music, Mrs Stockill will be teaching your child to sing with an awareness of other performers, and sing with some control of pitch and rhythm and with a sense of pulse. They will also be creating and choosing sounds for a specific purpose and performing rhythmical patterns.

In French, Mrs Stockill will be focussing on the types of weather, different types of clothing, numbers and months of the year.

In Understanding the World, your reception child will be learning about 'which places are special and why?' They will learn about significant features of sacred places and recognise places of worship from different religions. They will compare this to special places of their own and share their reasons why these places are special. We will be visiting Leavening Church as part of this learning.

In Religious Education, your year 1 and 2 child will be learning about places that are special to people and the reasons for this. They will be learning about ways in which stories, objects, symbols and actions used in churches, mosques and/ or synagogues, show what people believe. We will be visiting Leavening Church as part of this learning, as well as virtually visiting a mosque and a synagogue.

An Exciting Launch Day!

Thursday 5th January

As you know, our topic this half term is 'Once Upon a Time', and our focus is going to be based on the traditional tale 'The Gingerbread Man'. On Thursday 5th January, to launch this exciting topic, we're going to be making and decorating our own gingerbread biscuits and completing a variety of fun activities throughout the day based on the book. In Design Technology, your child will also be creating a hand puppet of a character from the gingerbread man story that they will be able to bring home once they have completed their design.

We would like to invite children to come to school on Thursday 5th January, dressed as a character from the Gingerbread Man story or any character from their favourite traditional tale if they'd prefer. If your child has the story book that their character is from, that they'd be happy to bring in, we'd love to read it in class too. We would really appreciate if you could make a contribution on Parent Pay, to cover the costs of resources. Thank you in advance.



A Special Visitor

On Monday 16th January, we are extremely honoured to have Oliver Hind, a British Paralympic swimmer, visiting our school as part of the PHSE long term plan around 'Dreams and Goals'. He will lead a whole school assembly straight after registration in the morning giving details about his life and how he became a Paralympic swimmer. Then straight after break, he will teach a PE lesson to Conkers class. Your child will already be dressed in their outdoor PE kits, as they will also have their usual PE session with Hawkes that afternoon. The children are incredibly lucky to have this opportunity and be able to ask him questions, and we're sure this is going to be extremely inspiring and enjoyable for everyone.