

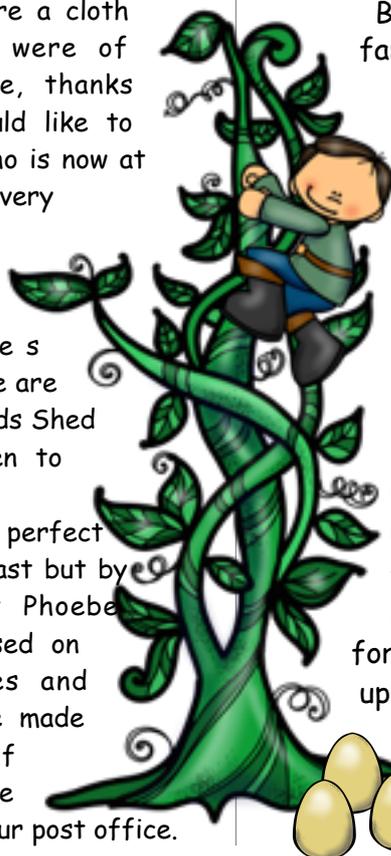


# Grafton Childcare

**Fairytales** - Monday 29th January - Friday 2nd March 2018

## Thank You

As always we are very grateful for bits and bobs which our parents pass onto us to make use of here at Grafton Childcare. In no particular order we would like to thank Henry for passing on his huge collection of very funky and colourful washable nappies, now he's in big boy pants. As we are a cloth setting these were of course welcome, thanks Henry. We would like to thank Sorrel who is now at big school for very kindly passing on her outgrown Fairytales Costumes. These are now up in the Kids Shed for the children to wear during our Fairytales topic perfect timing Sorrel! Last but by no means least Phoebe who kindly passed on some envelopes and cards which we made good use of before Christmas in our post office.



## Fairytales

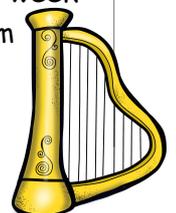
Our topic for the next five weeks is going to be based around lots of Classic Fairytales, including these:-

Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, The Gingerbread Man, Rapunzel, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood The Ugly Duckling, Pinocchio & The 3 Billy Goats Gruff

We also have a set of Mixed up Fairytales from The

Book People which add some witty retellings of famous fairy tales with each title backing up themes found in PSED & PD (personal, social and emotional and physical development) areas of the EYFS and the stories are sure to help the children understand and provide a very gentle approach to what can be sensitive issues. e.g. Good Hygiene and Physical Development. Among the stories are Don't Pick Your Nose, Pinocchio!, Eat Your Greens, Goldilocks and Stinky Jack and the Beanstalk. We have been very busy behind the scenes and converted the Kids Shed into the Three Little Bears Cottage ready to encourage lots of open-ended role-play amongst the children. As always please remember to check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, which we will upload each Sunday or Monday for the week ahead. [www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com](http://www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com)



29th January - 2nd February 2018

## Please Ask Granny

Does Granny have an old Handheld Rotary Whisk knocking about at the back of a kitchen cupboard that she no longer uses, if so would she mind donating it to Grafton?

We need four or five of them for some activities which Gary has planned with the children using our bubbles! Plus Natasha would like the children to have a go at using them making our own batter for pancakes! Any donations would be very gratefully received, thank you.

## Shape, Space & Measure

This week we shall be demonstrating and encouraging the children to use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems sneakily linked to our Fairytales Topic. We will be encouraging the children to recognise, create and describe patterns as they play with our sets of Fairytales Wooden Blocks. Gary will be providing the children with opportunities to explore the characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them during his many varied 'messy play' activities. This week he has planned some fun with our jelly, dry porridge oats and garden peas, which the children will imagine are Jack's Magic Beans. Please keep your eyes peeled to our weekly blogs where we will be sharing our photos of the children getting really stuck into these activities.

## Mathematics Development

Numbers; Shape, Space and Measure:



**Mathematics Development** here at Grafton involves giving the children numerous opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

**Numbers:** to support the development of this aspect of mathematics we will provide opportunities and activities both adult and child led where the children can develop their counting skills with numbers from 1 to 30 and higher for the more able.

So this week we will be using our Compare Bears to link in with our Fairytales Theme

and will be supporting the children to place them in preset orders and saying which number is one more or one less than a given number. By using



quantities and objects, they will

begin to develop the skills to add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answers they are looking for.

To further support activities like this, we shall be introducing our threading beads and shapes and possibly our dry Porridge Oats as we know how much the children enjoyed a similar activity last month using our Dried Lentils so would like to extend this activity for them as we always try to be guided by their current interests and fascinations. What may look like simple activities like these help develop early numeracy skills such as counting, sorting, patterning as well as problem solving skills, including doubling, halving and quartering.

## Weekly Blog

Remember to read our weekly blog to learn more about what we have planned for each specific week. You will also find more examples and suggestions of games and activities which you may like to do at home to help support your child's ongoing learning.



5th - 9th February 2018

Phonics Pots

29th January - 'W' for Woodcutter

inspired by the Fairytale, Little Red Riding Hood

5th February - 'A' for Apple

inspired by the Fairytale, Sleeping Beauty

12th February - 'P' for Prince

inspired by the Fairytale, Cinderella

19th February - 'J' for Jack

inspired by the Fairytale, Jack and the Beanstalk

26th February - 'Y' for Yoga

inspired by our Tatty Bumkins Yoga Classes

Please remember that all times must fit inside your child's Phonics pot with the lid on, so we do not loose any of your items at Nursery thank you.



Technology

Our children will be learning to recognise that a range of technology is used in their homes as well as at nursery. They will be supported to select and use technology for particular purposes here at Grafton. For example this week they will be using our iPads and CD players to access some of our vast collection of Fairytale resources to support our current Fairytales topic.



Understanding the World Development

People & Communities; The World; Technology:

Understanding the World here at Grafton involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their community through providing opportunities for them to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment

People & Communities: We will be supporting the children to talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. Encouraging them to develop their empathy to understand that other children don't always enjoy the same things and that they need to be sensitive to this. For example the Fairytale Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is a great story for supporting the children to gain an understanding of the need for sensitivity. We will be supporting their knowledge about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions by using our monthly topics as well as the information which the children and parents share with us via their, "My Favourite Things" pages to do so. Have you completed your child's page for January yet? It is not to late if you have forgotten and your child's Key Worker will find the information really useful.

The world: the children will be learning about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. We will be talking about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another, we can link this to our current topics and the children's interests to help to embed their understanding. For example by using the Fairytales, The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We will be constantly encouraging the children to observe their surroundings, animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes using their interests and fascinations to develop and broaden their knowledge base.

12th - 16th February 2018

## Pull Up Nappies

Can we please request that parents do not send their babies, toddlers and children, to Nursery in "Pull Up Disposable Nappies", unless they are in the first couple of weeks of active toilet training.

We believe they are wholly unsuitable for babies, toddlers and children who are not in the early process of toilet training, because they leak so easily. In order for your child's Key Worker to support your child and change them out of a wet or soiled "Pull Up" they will need to remove your child's shoes, dungarees, trousers, leggings, tights and or skirts in order to do so and this can take time. In future if a child arrives in a "Pull Up" who is not being actively toilet trained we will request via your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet that you please provide disposable nappies instead. If parents forget then we will use our own Grafton nappies. Thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.



# Expressive Arts & Design Development

Exploring and Using Media and Materials;  
Being Imaginative:



**Expressive arts and design** here at Grafton involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing lots of opportunities and encouragement for them to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

**Exploring and using media and materials:** our children sing lots of songs, enjoy creating music and dance, and experimenting with numerous ways of changing them. We focus on teaching the children to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function, through for example our regular Finger Gym, Messy Play and Danger Dads sessions.

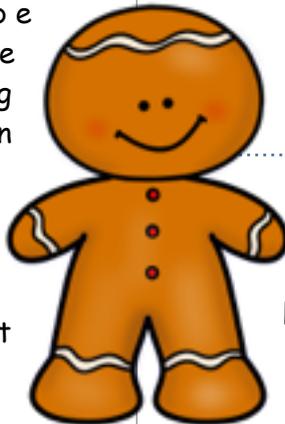
**Being imaginative:** We support and encourage the children to use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about their uses and purposes. We support the children to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories. Opportunities for role-play are so important for all children which is why at Grafton we have created two dedicated role-play areas. Our smaller inside 'Home Corner' under the stairs and of course our large 'Kid's Shed' in the top of the playground which we can transform so that it links in specifically to each topic. We have just transformed our 'Kid's Shed', into the Three Little Bears cottage from Goldilocks and the Three Bears, complete with three bears, and our giant cooking pot and wooden spoon, so the children can create their own porridge.



19th - 23rd February 2018

**Speaking**

We will also be developing the children's speaking skills so they will in time flourish and blossom with the skills to express themselves effectively, whilst showing the awareness of their listeners' needs. They will grow in confidence to accurately use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events during our daily 'Circle Time' sessions and whilst engaging in numerous, 'Small World Role-Play' sessions. For example during our Fairytales Topic the children will be using our large wooden Gingerbread Characters for a whole host of tasks, e.g. creating number lines, small world play and messy play activities. During all of which they will be given the opportunity to retell the story of the Gingerbread



Man in their very own words.

# Communication and Language Development

**Listening and Attention; Understanding; Speaking:**

Communication and Language development here at Grafton involves giving our children lots of opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a whole range of situations.

**Listening and attention:** throughout our children's time at Grafton we will be actively developing their skills so that they are able to listen attentively in a range of situations. The children are given daily opportunities to listen to stories, songs and rhymes. As they become familiar with popular stories linked to our topics they will develop the skills to accurately anticipate some of the key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They will also be developing the ability to give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in other activities, these are all vital skills for 'school readiness'.

**Understanding:** as part of the Communication and Language aspect of Understanding we will be supporting the children so that they can start to develop the skills needed to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. So that in time they will be able to confidently answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events. Parents can support their children to develop these skills by remembering to support their children during our daily, 'Circle Time' sessions when the children share their 'Wow Card's, 'Phonics Pots' and any exciting 'News' from home e.g. you may have emailed a photo to Denise of your child visiting the library or going for a walk in the woods with the family dog. These are all things you child will enjoy talking about and being questioned about by their peers. If they are able to bring in a Photo, Certificate or Artefact which is in some way linked to our Fairytales topic, well that would be just wonderful, thank you.

26th February - 2nd March 2018

**Health and Self-care:**

We help to reinforce the children's knowledge of the importance for them to maintain good health and the need to engage in lots of regular physical exercise, whilst having a healthy diet, by talking about ways for them to be healthy and safe. We encourage all of the children to manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently. For example by practising our regular throwing and catching games with our range of balls and beanbags your children will be developing the muscles and skills they need to be able to wipe themselves correctly after toileting. We teach the children a neat trick so that they can put their own coats on themselves once they are two years old. Ask your child to show you 'Grafton's Coat Trick'!

We practice lots of 'Finger Gym Activities', Gary and Lara are regularly coming up with cunning new plans, such as learning to correctly hold and use our scissors which helps to strengthen and develop the muscles the children will need for a secure pencil grip. This is yet another vital skill for 'school readiness'.

**Physical Development****Moving and Handling:****Health and self-care:**

We support the children's Physical Development here at Grafton Childcare by providing lots of opportunities for all of our children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. We also strive to help them to understand the importance of physical activity, and why they should try to make healthy choices in relation to food. Our weekly Tatty Bumpkin Yoga Sessions help to reinforce our message.

**Moving and Handling:**

To support the children to gain good control and co-ordination in large and small movements and to develop their ability to move confidently in a range of ways, whilst safely negotiating spaces. We shall be setting out some of our huge obstacle courses in the playground. But this week they will have a Gingerbread

Man theme using our Community Playthings Blocks and Planks and our new mini Go Cart Tires as extra materials for our courses.

To support the children's developing ability to handle various pieces of equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing we have planned an assortment of activities using our knives, to cut up their fruit for our fresh fruit smoothies and scissors in some of our Finger Gym activities. Please read the planning on our weekly blog for more details of individual activities we hope to complete.

**Tatty Bumpkin Yoga Classes Inspired by Children:**

The Preschoolers are continuing to enjoy our Spring Term Yoga classes on Friday mornings, the cost of these classes are 100% covered by parents existing 'Additional Services and Consumables Charges' so there will be no additional fees to pay for those children who will be taking part. Please remember to send your children to Grafton Childcare in suitable clothing so that they are able to join in fully with all of our physical activities. e.g. No dungarees, or thick and chunky clothing, they need to be able to move freely.



**Calpol Paracetamol  
Suspension Sachets:**

Do you need some sachets of Calpol Paracetamol Suspension we have 12 boxes of 12 sachets which expire in July 2019 to pass onto parents at their cost price of just **£2.50 per box**, this is a bargain as they cost £3.99 in Superdrug. Please remember to send Calpol/Paracetamol Suspension to Nursery in sachets tucked inside your child's Plastic Wallet which contains your child's Daily Diary or Communication Folder. We prefer sachets over bottles as sachets are easy for parents to quickly note if any sachets have been used and need replacing. Although we will always ask parents to sign to confirm that we have dispensed Calpol to our children as per the daily prior consent parents provide when dropping off.



**Early Years Funding & Fees Newsletter:**

We hope that all our parents have taken the time to fully read and digest our separate Early Years Funding and Fees Newsletter which we sent went home in January. Remember our inclusive hourly fee will be increasing to £4.75 per hour from the 1st April and will be fixed until



**Doorstep Milk Deliveries**

Sir David Attenborough's seven-part natural history series Blue Planet, was watched by millions across the globe and proved very thought provoking for all of the staff here at Grafton Childcare. So much so that we have taken the decision to make some changes here to cut down on the number of one use plastic products we use on a daily basis.

Our biggest contributor to our weekly recycling containers were unsurprisingly plastic milk bottles, as we use around 100 pints of milk each week! As part of our New Years resolution to cut down on one use plastic products we have swapped over to having our milk delivered in glass milk bottles by Steve Moss our local Dairy Crest Milkman. Unlike plastic milk bottles, glass milk bottles are reused up to 20 times, before being recycled into more new glass milk bottles.

Here at Grafton we also purchase fresh fruit juices in tetra cartons which the children use when creating their fresh fruit smoothies. We were delighted to learn that we can swop over to having our fruit juices delivered in glass bottles as well. In fact Dairy Crest have an amazing range of fruit juices which the children have really enjoyed sampling in January, their fresh Orange, Apple, Cranberry, Fruit Cocktail and Grapefruit juice have all been very well received by the children.

We are already very proud of the fact that we use washable nappies and wipes here at Grafton having done so for over 20 years! But we have often used disposable nappy liners. Boots and Mothercare have stopped producing the disposable liners we were previously using and we have taken the decision to use the opportunity to swop over to funky washable charcoal fleece liners, these can be reused numerous times before they will need to be replaced.

The start of the Spring Term is often when we are inundated with dozens of Early Years catalogues trying to sell their wares. We have written to 80% of these companies asking to be removed from their mailing lists to further cut down on the amount of unsolicited catalogues and brochures we were receiving. We would love to know via your child what recycling measures you are doing at home, as we may be able to implement them here at Nursery.

Remember you can always download old copies of our newsletters from our website.

## Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Spring & Summer Term (2)

Fairytales				
29 	30	31	1 February	2 
5	6	7	8	9 
Mon. 12th - Fri. 16th February is Half-term for our handful of Term-time only Funded Children				
12	13	14	15 	16
19	20 	21	22	23 
26	27	28	1 March	2 
Peter Rabbit				
5	6	7	8	9 
12 	13	14	15	16 
19	20	21	22	23 
26	27	28	29 	Good Friday
Fri. 30th March - Fri. 6th April Grafton is closed for Easter and reopens on Monday 9th April, but not until the 16th April for our handful of Term-time only Funded Children.				
Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends				
9 	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 	27
30	1 May	2	3	4
Royal Celebrations				
7 Bank Holiday	8	9 	10	11
14	15	16	17	18 
21	22	23	24	25
Mon. 28th May - Fri. 1st June is Half-term for our handful of Term-time only Funded Children				
28 Bank Holiday	29 	30	31	1 June