



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all of our families! We are delighted at how well the children have settled back into their reception classes and are ready and raring to learn. Our theme this half term is 'Monsters' and is called 'Watch out, there's a monster about!' Through this topic, the children will be engaging in lots of practical expressive arts and design activities, giving them many opportunities to develop both their spoken and written English.

Communication and Language: Developing an understanding of good speaking and listening skills in conversation will be our focus this half term. Through the use of talk partners, the children will be encouraged to turn to face the person who is speaking to them, look at them and listen to what they are saying. We will be helping them to wait their turn and not speak over others to really develop their listening skills.

Literacy: In their literacy work, the children will focus on developing an understanding of story structure (beginning, middle and end) through reading stories about fictional monsters such as *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson, *Billy and the Beast* by Nadia Shireen and *Bog Baby* by Jean Willis & Gwen Millward. In phonics, we continue with the introduction of digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound). This term, we will focus on the sounds ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air and er. Use the link on our school website to watch a parent video from Little Wandle Letters and Sounds so that you know how to pronounce these sounds <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

The children will be learning to read words containing these new sounds and encouraged to use them in their writing when writing for different purposes such as making lists or letters.

Please continue to read with your child at home as much as possible and record their progress with this in their reading diary.

Maths: Having dedicated last term to learning about the numbers 0-5, this half term the children will be taking the time to explore number bonds to 5. Number bonds are the pairs of numbers that when added together make a given number for example $2 + 3 = 5$ and $1 + 4 = 5$. We will also continue to explore and name 2D shapes, discussing their properties using mathematical language.

Please support your child at home by playing games which involve using dice, number cards or number lines. Look for opportunities, such as laying the table for dinner to encourage your child to count out objects and compare groups of objects when they are helping you around the home.

Physical Development: We will be experimenting with different ways of moving in our PE lessons as part of our gymnastics unit this half term. We will be building towards developing strength, coordination, balance and agility. We will be introducing and working on the five gymnastic shapes which are straight, star, pike, tuck and straddle.

Understanding the World: This half term, the children will continue to find out about special times and cultural celebrations which will involve exploring Chinese New Year. We will also be encouraging the children to explore the world around us and looking at similarities and differences.

Expressive Arts and Design: In expressive arts and design, the children will learn how to use a variety of materials and writing tools to make designs for their very own 3D model of a fictional monster! They will then make the monster, learning how materials can be changed by cutting, joining and decorating them.

The children will also take part in music activities that will help them to make up their own rhythms, using instruments to play them. Their newly learned skills will then be used to compose their own monster 'roars' so as to bring their monster model to life!

The Reception Team

Don't forget to check the website at: www.pegasusacademytrust.org