

Shoots Newsletter - Spring 1



This half term, our focus is on helping children follow class boundaries and expectations with growing independence. We will be developing their communication skills by encouraging the use of new and rich vocabulary when interacting with peers and adults. We'll also support them in selecting and using resources independently, and in extending their play ideas while listening and collaborating with others. We're looking forward to a positive and engaging half term ahead

Our new topic this half term is 'Terrific Tales'

We will be focusing on answering 'why' questions and encouraging children to give appropriate responses, for example: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?" or "Why did the wheel roll down the hill?" This will give us valuable opportunities to support language development and model new vocabulary.

Each week, we will explore a different traditional tale with lots of engaging activities to promote storytelling and recall. We will also introduce rhyming words, encouraging children to identify rhyming pairs in stories (e.g., star and car). You can help at home by practising simple rhymes together. Children will also be using picture clues in books to make predictions or suggest alternative endings to familiar stories.

Our Goals This Half Term

As part of our continued development across the Early Years curriculum, we have three key goals we'll be focusing on with the children this half term:

1. Exploring goals and dreams

We will be talking about the challenges we may face, the importance of perseverance, how to seek help, and how it feels when we achieve a goal. These discussions will help children build resilience and confidence.

2. Using low apparatus in PE

Children will be supported to take safe risks and push themselves using low apparatus. They will practise jumping, crawling, sliding, balancing, and developing their core muscles and coordination.

3. Understanding the composition of numbers to 5

We will explore how numbers up to 5 are made, using practical activities to help children recognise different number combinations and deepen their early maths understanding.



Here are **5 simple activities** to help with number composition at home:

1. Build a Number With Toys

Choose a number (e.g., 4) and ask your child to show it in different ways using everyday objects like LEGO bricks, cars, or teddies.

Example: "Can you show me 4 as 3 and 1? How about 2 and 2?"

2. Snack Maths

Use grapes, raisins, crackers, or cereal pieces.

Example: "You have 5 raisins. If you eat 2, how many are left?"
This makes number combining and splitting meaningful (and tasty!).

3. Egg Box Number Friends

Use half an egg box (6 cups). Place a number (1-5) inside the lid. Your child fills the cups with buttons, pom-poms, or beads to show different ways to make that number.

4. Finger Combinations Game

Hold up a number of fingers (e.g. 4).

Ask: "Show me a different way to make 4 with your fingers."
Great for instant, hands-on number bonds practice.

5. Roll and Build

Roll a dice.

Your child builds the number rolled using two colours of blocks (e.g. 3 blue + 2 red = 5).

