

# Robins Class Parent Update

## Spring 1 2023



Welcome back to Robins Class for the Spring Term. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday.

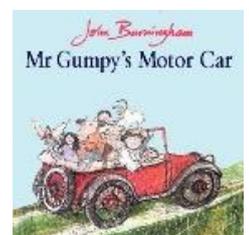
Thank you to everyone who has shared updates on Tapestry, we love to see all the different things you have been up to, Father Christmas was certainly very busy this year!

Following discussion with Mrs Kemble, we began using staff first names only with the children last term. We have been teaching and modelling our names and we are already seeing a huge difference in the children's communication skills. Robins Team are Jane, Sharon, Emma, Caroline and Abi.

Our topic this half term is **'Travel and Transport'** which is going to prove extremely popular as so many of the children really love their vehicles. If anyone still has any large boxes (big enough to sit in) from Christmas deliveries lurking at home that haven't yet made it into the recycling, we would very gratefully take these from you!

**'Travel and Transport' - On the road and on the rails**

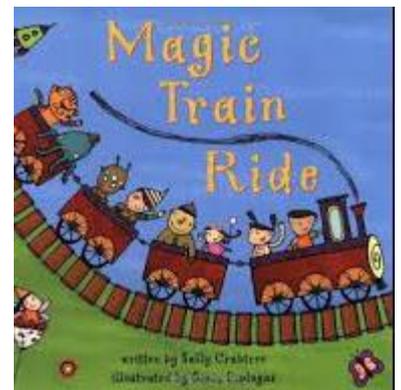
Our main story will be 'Mr Gumpy's Motor Car'.



Mr Gumpy takes the children and animals out for a drive, when suddenly the rains come and the car becomes stuck in the mud – nobody wants to help to push!

This story lends itself beautifully to lots of role play opportunities as well as sensory, messy play as toy animals and puppets become stuck in the mud and the cars and trucks drive through muddy paint. We will explore pushing and pulling and develop our communication skills, practising animal names, signs and sounds. There will plenty of opportunities for drawing and writing too, where appropriate.

We will also have lots of fun with a sensory adventure using Barefoot Books Magic Train Ride.



We will board the train and then explore each land every time the train stops at the next station. These will include the jungle, underwater, space, a magic wood, the land of cakes and fairyland. We will explore props, toys, puppets, sensory materials and an array of other resources related to each land. We will be able to take turns to push the button to blow the train whistle which lets us know that it's time to board the train to move to the next station.



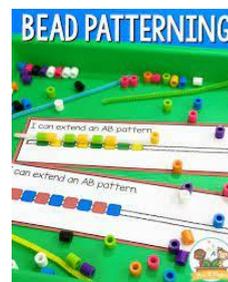
If you would like to listen at home, The Magic Train Ride can be found on YouTube, or follow this link

<https://youtu.be/8eSxrPzoZY0>

Additional songs will include

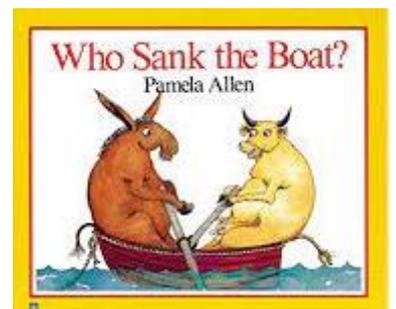
- The Transport Song
- Driving in my car
- Down at the station
- The journey home from Grandpa's

Our Maths focus this half term will have a colour and pattern focus. We will be singing 'We all go travelling by' and will be exploring, identifying, naming and sorting colours. We will also look at matching and mixing colours and exploring and continuing patterns.



## **'Travel and Transport' - On the water**

Our main story will be 'Who Sank the Boat?' This will give lots of opportunities for more role play and water play which is always popular! We will re-enact the story in the water tray with the animals and have a go at making some junk model boats. We will investigate floating and sinking by



seeing if we can make the animals a boat which doesn't sink!

Other stories and songs may include,

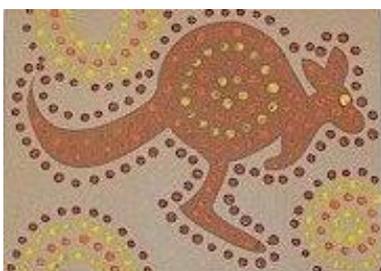
- Mr Gumpy's Outing
- The animals went in 2 by 2
- Row, row your boat

During our outdoor learning we will enjoy lots of seasonal activities and get out as much as we can to observe the changing seasons and explore winter.

We will investigate frost and ice and explore frozen sculptures with winter animals hiding inside. We will use various methods to try and extract the animals from the ice. We will also use a variety of techniques to create some beautiful, wintery artwork.



We will also be exploring the Hindu Festival, Pongal and Australia Day as part of our multicultural learning where we will think about different aspects of these cultures such as food, music and artwork.



We will continue our regular Attention Bucket sessions this term to continue developing our listening and attention skills. We will also introduce 'Jar Time' with highly desirable and motivating toys and resources. This will encourage and support expressive communication and vocabulary development including verbal, visual or Makaton sign as appropriate for each child.

### **Work to do at home with your child.**

During our topic, we will let you know what we have been doing each day via the diary and through Tapestry. Please support the learning done in school by talking about their day, reading the same stories if you have them available, singing the songs or engaging in craft or sensory activities etc linked with our theme. If you would like to borrow a book for a bedtime story or would like a YouTube link to a song, please ask via Tapestry or in the home – school diary.

### **Important Reminders about Robins Class.**

**OUTDOOR LEARNING** – Our outdoor learning time is **Thursday morning**.

We will be continuing to go outside throughout this term in all weathers. Your child will need a full set of waterproofs (trousers and coat) and boots as an essential. Please send these in if you have not already done so.



Please send your child with a hat and gloves during the winter months even if they do not like wearing them. We will continue supporting the children to wear these items. Please also send your child an extra layer to wear on particularly cold days (this doesn't need to be school uniform).

**LABELLING** – Please label ALL items of clothing and personal belongings. Now that we are regularly changing into wellies, it is important that we make sure shoes go home on the correct feet which can be tricky with similar looking unlabelled school shoes.

**SPARE CLOTHES** – These are essential. Please send your child with a change of clothes each day or a labelled bag can be left on their peg in school with spare sets of clothes.

**Please include pants (if appropriate) and socks in spare clothes.**

**ROBINS WELCOME MORNING** – It was lovely to welcome parents to our first open door session just before Christmas. We will be hosting the next welcome morning towards the end of this term. We hope as many of you can come and join us as possible. More information will follow later in the term.

Thank you for all your continued support. We are looking forward to another super half term with your children.

Jane and Robins Class Team 😊