

## Robins Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020



Dear Robins Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer the warmest welcome to both the parents and children in Robins Class. I am looking forward to getting to know each child and working together with you so that they have a very exciting and productive year. I am anticipating that they will enjoy the new challenges and approaches to learning that Robins' class has to offer.

The children who came for our transition mornings, settled very well in our lovely classroom. As they begin fulltime they will be understandably tired and we will adapt each day to suit their needs. Mrs Swift aka 'Super Swift' will be teaching the children whenever I am out of the classroom and we are supported by wonderful teaching assistants within the class. We will work very closely together to support your children.

These first few weeks of school are based around getting to know the children really well and building good relationships. During this time, I will discover their likes, dislikes and their interests and strengths. The children quickly learn what my expectations of them and also the routines of our school day. This will allow me to create a learning environment and provide continuous provision which not only will they enjoy but to also develop their learning. Once we have fully settled into school, the timetable will constantly change throughout the year to adapt to their needs and to be suitably challenging for all of their individual levels of development. A typical day in Robins will involve a Phonics session, a Maths session and Funky Fingers (fine motor skill activities). The safety and happiness of the class is paramount to everything we do.

### Phonics and Reading

I am offering a Phonics Information Session for Reception parents on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm via Zoom. The aim of the session is to provide you with information about how I teach reading and writing through phonics and how you can support your child at home with their reading and writing. I hope you can join me.

**How does my child access the eBook Library?**

- 1 Go to [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)
- 2 Click on the 'My class login' button (top right).
- 3 Type in the class name and password that your child's teacher has given your child, and click 'Log in'.

A screenshot of the Oxford Owl website. The page is titled 'Welcome to Oxford Owl'. There are two main sections: 'Oxford Owl for School' and 'Oxford Owl for Parents'. The 'My class login' button in the top right corner is circled in red. The login fields for 'Class name' and 'Password' are also circled in red. The 'Log in' button is also circled in red.

### Oxford Owl

As we are not currently sending books home, I would like everybody to sign up to the eBook Library for Letters and Sounds at [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk). **Click on My class login (top right) and enter the username: **mrs taylor robins** password: **RockingRobins****



Click on the 'My Bookshelf' button from the eBook Library for Letters and Sounds tile. Go to the Levels tab and scroll to Book Band. We will start on the Lilac book band.

These initial books are wordless books that tell a story through pictures alone. They help children to develop speaking and listening skills through creating and telling stories. Your child is discovering the excitement of

books and although these books have no words, they are an important introduction to reading. Please encourage your child to:

- Look at the pages in order and talk about what is happening on the left hand page before the right hand page.
- Talk about what is happening on each page rather than just talking about what they see in each picture.
- Use descriptive vocabulary.
- Tell you who or what the book is about and answer lots of open ended how and why questions.
- Play the games at the end of the story together.

The children are taught to read with Letters and Sounds, a step-by-step synthetic phonics teaching framework. The eBook Library for Letters and Sounds contains 100 books precisely matched to each of the phonics teaching Sets. It means that your child can enjoy reading books that practise the exact grapheme-phoneme correspondences that they have just been taught. In addition to the books, your child will bring home Word Boxes to focus on blending sounds together to read a word. These are a list of words that contain the phonics we have learnt in class. I shall explain these in more depth during the phonics session. If the children are not blending, I will ask them to focus on recognising the graphemes (letters) and saying the corresponding sound. If they are blending easily they could write the words on the list (you tell them the word and they spell it out rather than they copy). I will teach the correct letter formation with every sound we learn and insist that the children write with this formation. Once habits in writing are formed they are very hard to break. Part of the Key stage 1 curriculum is focused on joined up writing and I would not be preparing the children for their future schooling if their letters (and numbers) are not formed correctly. When children write at home please also encourage them to adopt the correct pencil grip. I will attach handouts on letter formation on Class Dojo after the phonics session

Some top tips for encouraging your child to read:

- Ask your child what sound they have learnt that day. Can they spot it in text? Can they write it for you?
- Hear your child read every day (initially this may be them telling you the story from the pictures) or identifying sounds we have learnt and practicing these.
- A little and often approach is much more successful than saving it all until the weekend - ten minutes daily will have a great impact in the long term. Think about how long you are reading for - the amount of reading time shouldn't exceed your child's span of attention.
- Pick your timing carefully - it's best not to embark on a reading session when your child is tired.
- Every child is an individual - try not to compare your child's progress with other children or with brothers and sisters.
- When they are writing, encourage the correct pencil grip and also the correct formation of the letter they have been taught.

The books in the reading corner of the classroom are changed every half term. I want to encourage a love of books and stories so children will read for enjoyment and pleasure. At the end of this letter there is a selection on recommended reads you could share with your child. Clare Library will have these books.

### **Class Routines**

We will ask the children to wash/use hand sanitiser, multiple times throughout the school day and on entry to the school grounds.

The children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day as part of a healthy lifestyle. Please make sure that your child has a named bottle with them every day. They can drink from their bottle whenever

they need to (except during teaching time/carpet time). Bottles can be refilled as required throughout the day.

We will be going on the field, outside area and/or woodland school area everyday Please ensure that your child has a pair of outdoor shoes or wellies to be kept in school (or they can wear their outdoor shoes to and from school and keep the others in school).



Children can go to the toilet whenever they need to and we also give regular reminders throughout the day. They all did very well during our transition morning, remembering to wipe, flush and wash their hands. Please continue to reinforce this at home and ensure your child has spare underwear etc in their cubby hole. We're looking into getting the tap changed as many found it too hard to push down.

Children will be provided with a fruit or vegetable snack every day and also a cup of milk. They don't have to have either of these. If your child will only eat bananas, they are welcome to bring in their own however please note that only fruit and vegetable snacks are allowed in school. Please ensure that they have a full tummy before school as this will help their wellbeing and concentration. I will ask the children every morning if they are having packed lunch or school dinners that day. Please remember that we have a 'No Nuts' policy within the school due to allergies and we ask that all packed lunches adhere to these guidelines.

## PE

Balanceability will begin next week at school, the tutor, Helen will bring all the balance bikes and helmets the children will need. They can take part in their school uniform and long hair must be tied back. We are very excited about your children having this opportunity this term at and look forward to seeing there biking ability go from strength to strength. PE kits are to be worn every Wednesday so they do not need to be left at school.



## Home Time

Please inform the office about pick up for the children. If somebody different will be collecting your child or their routine is changed from normal, please let the office know. In the interests of safety, I cannot let children go home with a different adult unless I am advised by yourself.

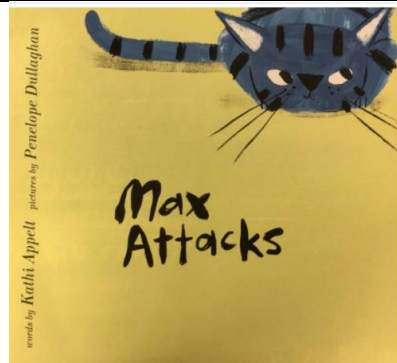
## Topic and Curriculum Enhancements



Our topic this term is **Marvellous Me** and we will also have a Dinosaur and Unicorn focus as this seems to be a popular interest this year. Every child will be given the opportunity to show and tell their Marvellous Me box with the whole class. Throughout the year we will have a story of the week and read this story everyday for that week. After half term our topic will be **Winter Wonderland** and our main text will be Sneezy the Snowman. I am keeping everything crossed that the children will also perform in the 'world famous' Wickhambrook Robins Class Nativity!

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for your support,  
Mrs Kerry Taylor

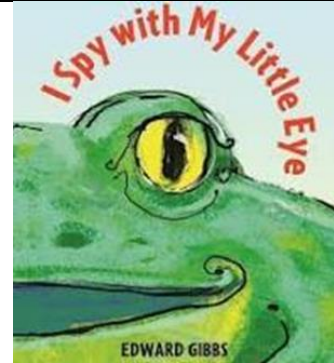
Rocking Robins Class, Autumn Term Recommended Reads



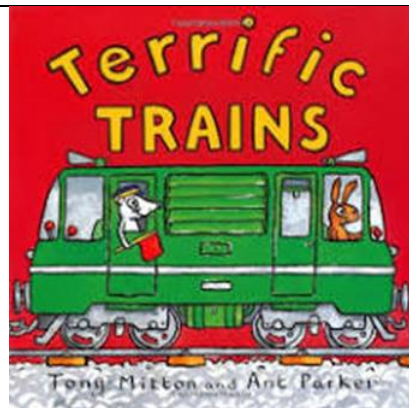
**Max Attacks** by Kathi Appelt



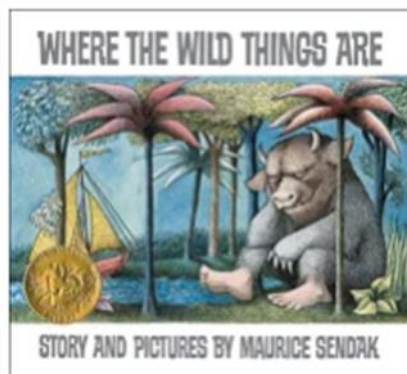
**My Mum** by Anthony Browne



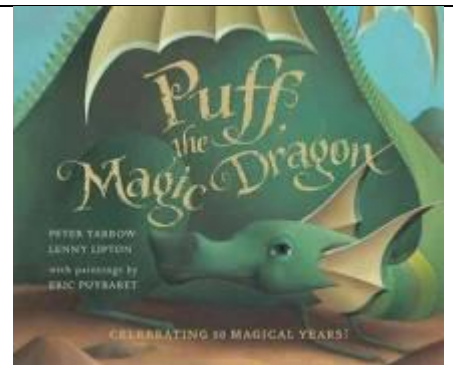
**I Spy with My Little Eye** by Edward Gibbs



**Terrific Trains** by Tony Mitton



**Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak



**Puff the Magic Dragon** by Lenny Lipton and Peter Yarrow



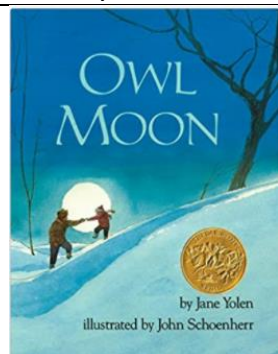
**Lion and The Mouse** by Jerry Pinkney



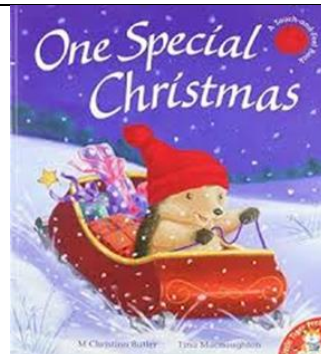
**Wild** by Emily Hughes



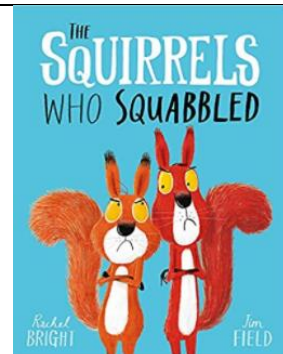
**Orion and the Dark** by Emma Yarlett



**Owl Moon** by Jane Yolen



**One Special Christmas** by M Christina Butler and Tina Macnaughton



**The Squirrels Who Squabbled** by Rachel Bright