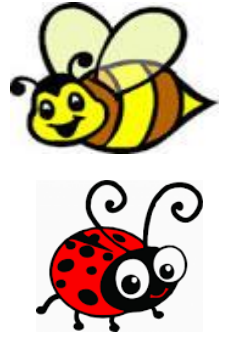


Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

This week we would love for you to try to create a story map for one of your favourite stories. You can use the backwards 'S' like we do at school. Can you add any words or captions to your story map?

We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Love Buzz and Lottie



Week beginning 23rd February 2026

Welcome back! The children have returned to school full of excitement and were eager to share their half-term adventures with us. It has been wonderful hearing their stories, and we have been so impressed with how ready they are to dive straight back into learning. As you are aware, we have also welcomed some important visitors to school this week, and the Bumblebees and Ladybirds made us incredibly proud. We received many compliments about their courtesy and excellent learning behaviours- amazing!

This week, we introduced our new theme: Big Blue Sea. We have begun reading *A New Home for a Pirate*, and earlier in the week the children helped Pirate Jed find his lost gems. What an adventure! They have also completed their Cold Tasks for this term, showing fantastic concentration and motivation as they demonstrated what they can already do.

In Maths, we have begun recognising repeating patterns in numbers beyond 20, for example noticing that numbers ending in 2 always follow numbers ending in 1. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm; they are excellent pattern spotters!

We were very excited to welcome a representative from Kent Fire and Rescue Service today. We had some important discussions about fire safety and the children asked some thoughtful and sensible questions.

A huge thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading at home. Reading together really does make such a difference. If you have any school reading books or sharing books at home, please return them in your child's book bag so that we can replenish our collection.

Next Thursday is one of our favourite days of the year- World Book Day! The theme is 'Wicked' and children are invited to wear a witch or wizard's hat or a pointy nose to school. We can't wait to share some magical stories together.

Lastly, if you have any recyclable materials at home, we would be very grateful for donations for our junk modelling area. Toilet and kitchen roll tubes would be especially useful for our pirate-themed crafts, but we would also welcome small boxes and clean plastic bottles. Thank you very much in advance for your support.

If you were unable to attend parent consultations this week, please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange a convenient alternative time.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

The Foundation Team

Story map example: You could use these prompts to help you if you want to make up your own story:



Once upon a time



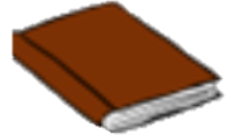
Early one morning



Unfortunately



Luckily



In the end

Vocabulary we will be introducing next week:

The Natural World

- Route – a particular way of getting from one place to another
- Destination – a place that a person is going to or goods are being sent to

World Book Day

- Wizard- A make-believe person, in stories, who has magic powers
- Witch- A person, often in stories, who uses magic spells.



Past and Present

- Wooden boat-
- Metal boat-



Shopping

This game is to help your child learn pronouns; **he**, **she** and **they**.

To play this game you will need some everyday objects from around the house e.g. a cup, book, spoon, car, glove, empty food boxes or fruit and vegetables. You will also need some soft toys, or small figures to be the customers.

Set up a 'shop' on a table or the floor. Let your child be the shop keeper while you use the soft toys or small figures to be the customers.

Ask your child to serve each customer by asking you what **he**, **she** or **they** would like. Remember to use the pronouns in your answers so your child hears the words lots of times,

e.g. 'He would like some grapes, she would like some cornflakes and they would like ice-creams.'

Let your child be the customer sometimes and tell you what the customer wants.

You may have to encourage your child to use the right words. If your child makes a mistake repeat the correct word for them,

e.g child: 'Him want crisps.'
adult: 'Oh, he wants the crisps. Here you are.'

Variations:

To make this game easier work on just one pronoun at a time.

To make this game harder use lots of items and customers.

