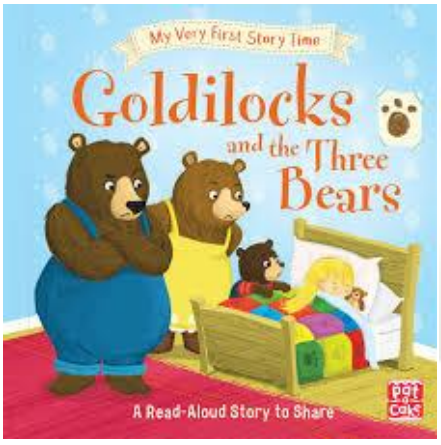
Nursery Newsletter 19th January 2026

This week we are continuing our learning about toys by focusing on teddy bears and soft toys. On Friday it is 'Show and Tell' day. Please bring a favourite teddy bear or soft toy in to show and talk about. (Could each toy have a label on with its' name and owner. Thank you!)
We will be bringing our bears/soft toys to an indoor teddy bear's picnic! The children will be helping to make sandwiches for the picnic, and we will be tucking into nibbles and fruit.
Our stories this week are 'This is the Bear' by Sarah Hayes, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen, and the traditional folktale, 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears'. We will be singing 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear', 'When Goldilocks went to the house of the Bears' and 'Teddy Bear's Picnic'.

Please bring your 'Chatterboxes' into Nursery this week. (See separate email)

In our mathematics learning we are focusing on 'subitising.' Please see the attached information to find out more. The children are really good at subitising in Nursery. Please can you practise this important skill at home too.
Many thanks,

Mrs Terrell



What is subitising?

Subitising is when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting. This only works with small groups of numbers, as we can only subitise up to 5 things. It was first introduced by a Swiss psychologist called Piaget.

Types of subitising

Perceptual subitising

This is the ability to recognise the number of objects in front of you without using any mathematical process - it's instinctual.

Conceptual subitising

This is where you are able to recognise a number by grouping in into small sets. For example, if you are shown a line of 6 black dots, it's likely that you will automatically group these into 2 groups of 3, and then know that there are 6 in total without actually counting each one.

How does subitising work?

When we're younger, our visual memory is very powerful. This makes it easier for us to remember images than it does words or numbers. This is how we begin to subitise.

By linking an image or visual representation of a number to the number itself, we're able to forge a lasting connection between the two.

This explains why we're able to link the image of 6 dots on a dice to the number 6 without counting.

Why is be able to subitise useful?

Simply, it can make working out maths problems a lot faster. If your brain is already able to recognise certain groups of numbers easily, then you'll have more time to focus on other aspects of the problem.

We also subitise in our everyday lives. For example, you might be subitising without realising when you pick out 3 20p coins to pay for something that costs 60p.

How can I help my child learn to subitise?

Using board games with dice is a fun way to develop children's subitising ability without them even realising.

Any practical counting activity is ideal. In particular, activities where children are shown a number and then have to build these numbers with counters, for example, are perfect.

It's all about exposing children to the visual representations of numbers.