

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the key skills we work towards by the end of Reception is the confident use of a knife and fork. This isn't just part of the Early Learning Goals — it's a lifelong skill that helps children develop independence and good table manners. We practise this regularly in school, and your support at home makes a big difference. If your child finds it tricky, you might begin by cutting their food for them, and as their confidence grows, modelling how to hold and use cutlery — slowly and clearly — gives them a strong example to follow.



### This week

We learned the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, and later met Little Red when she asked for our help to warn everyone that the Big Bad Wolf was still on the loose. The children thought of fantastic words to describe the wolf and added them to the 'Beware' posters they created. Later on, a rather upset Granny told us she was hungry because Little Red Riding Hood hadn't delivered her basket of goodies that morning. The Hedgehogs were eager to help, so they wrote lists of things they could send to Granny instead. In maths, the children consolidated their understanding of how the number 5 can be made and split in different ways. Through practical activities they explored part-part-whole relationships. They began to recognise that 5 can be partitioned in many combinations and practised visualising the missing parts when they knew the whole.

### Next week

The children will continue exploring the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* and will be making get-well cards for Granny, as well as sequencing the events of the story together. As we've been thinking about the Big Bad Wolf and his sharp, white teeth, we'll also be welcoming a visiting dentist who will talk to the children about how to keep their teeth clean and healthy. In maths, the children will continue exploring how numbers are made up, using familiar dot patterns to deepen their understanding of the '5-ness' of 5 and the pairs that make it. They'll then use double dice frames to begin investigating 6 and 7 as numbers made from "5 and a bit."

Best wishes,

The Hedgehog  
Team

#### Wow Words.

**crafty:** getting what you want in a dishonest way

**concealed::** hidden/secret

**suspicious:** to question or show doubt

**garments:** any piece of clothing.

**devious:** tricking people to get what you want.

