

# Storytelling at Stephen Freeman School

*If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.*

— Albert Einstein



At Stephen Freeman School we follow a storytelling curriculum. This means that children in all year groups thrive and grow through the use of high quality texts, with a focus on one main text which is carefully selected each term. The storytelling curriculum is taught through:

- **hearing, stepping, mapping and speaking** stories
- **deepening** understanding of story themes and characters
- **innovation** activities to further explore children's own ideas
- **invention** of new texts

In the Early Years we aim to immerse children in a rich and carefully selected variety of texts and experiences involving different texts. On a daily basis, children are offered opportunities to deepen and enhance creativity, for example through:

- **role play area**
- **use of puppets**
- **drama activities**
- **storytelling chairs**
- **small world (dolls house props, people, dinosaurs etc)**
- **making stages**
- **writing related to characters, e.g. writing speech bubbles**



## Helicopter Stories

In Early Years, Helicopter Stories are a fantastic way of accessing the storytelling curriculum and encouraging creative thinking. The Helicopter story process involves:

- child telling a story to an adult, the adult writing the story
- adult writing exactly what the child says without changing or correcting any words
- child identifies which character they would like to play
- whole class gather in a circle for helicopter story acting out
- the author makes decisions about how the story will be acted out, others in the class help by taking on roles of different characters or objects in the story
- stories are kept in a class book for children to share when they want to