



As part of our theme “**People Who Help Us**,” the children have been learning about the **real-life superheroes** who support our community every day.

Continuing Interest in Our Veterinary Role-Play Area

Our veterinary role-play area has remained open due to the children’s sustained curiosity and enthusiasm — and it continues to showcase the powerful learning that is taking place every day.

The extended provision has allowed the children to:

Strengthen Vocabulary and Language Skills

With each session, we are hearing richer vocabulary, including words like *appointment*, *patient*, *X-ray*, *operation*, *injection*, *check-up*, and *recovery*. The children are using these terms naturally and confidently in their conversations.

Build Early Literacy and Mark-Making Opportunities

We have seen children independently:

- Write appointment slips
- Record “symptoms”
- Draw X-rays
- Make labels and prescriptions



The children’s continued excitement around our veterinary role-play has now evolved into a completely **independent initiative** outdoors. Their deep engagement in learning about people who help us has prompted them to set up their very own **doctor’s surgery** in the open-ended shed space.

This independent creation of a doctor’s surgery shows that children:

- Are transferring knowledge from one role-play theme (vets) to another (doctors)
- Understand similarities in how care professionals help people and animals
- Can collaborate, negotiate and organise complex play ideas
- Are motivated to deepen their learning without adult prompting

It is a brilliant example of how children’s interests can grow organically and lead to highly meaningful learning experiences.

The construction area toolbox has provided some interesting surgical equipment!

The children have loved re reading the story 'Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons' (A suggested read to support our work on the number 4 in our newsletter last week.

Pete the Cat has a favourite shirt with **four bright, groovy buttons**. He loves how they look and loves singing a little button song. It's a great way to help children **count backwards and understand the concept of take away**.

But as he goes along his day...

POP!

One button pops off!

Does Pete cry?

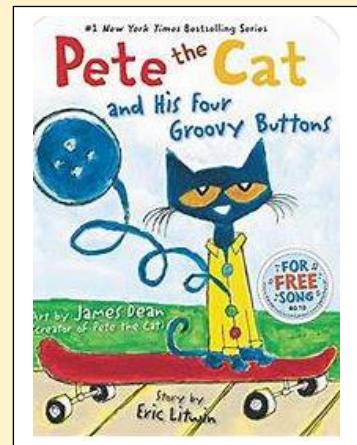
Goodness, no!

He just keeps singing his song and enjoying the day.

The same thing happens again...

and again...

and again...



Each time a button pops off, Pete counts how many are left and stays calm, cool, and groovy.

Finally, all the buttons are gone — except one:

His belly button!

Pete realizes that even when things change, he can still look on the bright side.



Important Diary Dates and Information

February 9th and 10th - Parent Consultation 3.30-6.30pm

Friday 13th February - Last Day of Spring 1 Half Term - Magical Mischief Day, details in January's Whole School Newsletter

Monday 23rd February - First Day Spring 2 Half Term

Thursday 2nd April - Last Day of Spring Term

Monday 20th April - First Day of Summer Term



Have a wonderful weekend

Take care,

The Southridge Team