

Newsletter 3&4

Week Ending 3rd October

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a lovely couple of weeks in Nursery School, filled with creativity, curiosity, and lots of laughter. The children have continued to explore and build a wide variety of ball runs, showing great teamwork and problem-solving skills. Storytime has been a particular highlight, with the children enjoying sharing favourite books with their teachers and friends.

Our exploration of how cogs work has sparked plenty of interest, as the children experimented and learned through hands-on play. Some of the children also took part in Marvellous Minds, our mindful movement sessions, which offered a calm and engaging way to connect body and mind.

To end the week, Friday brought a splash of fun as we embraced the rain! With wellies on and smiles all around, the children had a fantastic time playing and discovering the joys of a rainy day.

In the mud kitchen, the children have continued to be busy experimenting with natural ingredients to create different textures and consistencies—a great opportunity for sensory play and scientific thinking.

Throwing and catching has been a focus, with children developing this new skill using a variety of ball sizes. We've also seen lots of enthusiastic mark-making all around us, as children explore writing and drawing in different places and with different materials. Maths is embedded across our environment and learning—it's everywhere!

Wow Activities!

Last week, the children enjoyed making 'Gruffalo Crumble', and this week they had a wonderful time creating Banana & Strawberry Smoothies. These activities offered many learning opportunities: chopping a variety of fruits, discussing and using different ingredients and utensils, and engaging in mathematical thinking and understanding of the world. The children asked thoughtful questions and showed a great curiosity to deepen their understanding.

Group Time Highlights

Maths (Number):

The children have been counting aloud, saying number names in order. Using a large dice, they rolled numbers, counted the dots, and then represented those numbers through actions like clapping or jumping. We've been estimating quantities and then checking by counting to see who estimated correctly.

We introduced a voting station, where children voted for the story they wanted to hear by placing a brick in front of their choice. We then counted the bricks to see which story had the most votes. We've also explored cardinality, with children giving or taking a set number of items (e.g., 2 or 3) from a group. These sessions have been full of problem-solving and enthusiastic participation.

Phonics (Environmental Sounds):

The children have been enjoying stories and songs with props, role play, and sound effects. For example, we acted out Humpty Dumpty, adding sound effects like bump, crash, bang and pretending to gallop with all the King's horses.

We've also played 'Describe It and Find It', where children guessed animals in a farmyard or zoo based on descriptions—no names given! They also enjoyed making the animal sounds.

This week, we explored the interactive game 'Welcome to the Zoo' on Phonics Play. The children loved guessing animal sounds and identifying the animals. You can play this at home using this link: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1/welcome-to-the-zoo>

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Song of the Week:

Last week: Tommy Thumb - <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/tommy-thumb-nursery-rhyme/>

This week: 5 Green Bottles - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zncyt39>

Poem of the Week:

Last Week – Chop Chop
Chop, Chop, Choppity Chop.
Cut off the bottom and cut off the top.
What there is left, we put in the pot.
Chop, Chop, Choppity Chop.

This Week – A Basket of Apples
I've got a basket of apples, picked from a tree.
Apples rosy red for you, and shiny green for me.
Some of them are big, and some of them are small.
Some of them are oval, and some shaped like a ball.
Some of them are sour, and some of them are sweet.
Lots of lovely apples for you and I to eat.

See if your child can remember the words and actions at home—we had great fun using props to act it out!

Information & Reminders

Autumn Walks:

If your child collects any autumnal treasures on their walks (leaves, large conkers, pinecones, etc.), please do bring them in. We'll encourage the children to use these in their play and creations.

Vegetable Soup Next Week:

We'll be making vegetable soup with the children. If you have any spare vegetables to donate, we'd be very grateful!

Trips to the Co-op:

We're hoping to take small groups of children on trips to the Co-op to buy ingredients for our cooking sessions. If you're available to help, please speak to a member of staff. If you'd prefer your child not to participate, just let us know.

Focus Week:

Please keep an eye out for memos regarding your child's Focus Week. The week before, we'll send home an 'All About Me – Update' for you to complete. The week after your child's focus, we'll arrange a short phone call to share observations and discuss their development. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts and ask any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm wishes,
The Nursery Team