

Nursery News- Issue 3

Happy Diwali!

The children had the most wonderful time at our Diwali party this week. They enjoyed listening to the story of Rama and Sita as well as taking part in a variety of Diwali themed activities.



The children decorated their very own clay diyas, dressed up in some traditional Indian clothes, danced to some Bollywood music and made Rangoli Patterns as well as threading their own bracelets with beads and bells. Look out for some amazing photos on Tapestry in the coming days! A very big thank you to Mrs Tulsi for bringing in all the Indian decorations, clothes and artefacts and for providing the wonderful activities 😊

Forest School

We have thoroughly enjoyed forest school as always and enjoyed some autumn themed activities. The children made beautiful leaf crowns and made magic spells in Miss Jacque's Forest School cauldron!



Project

The children have been enjoying our projects activities over the last couple of weeks focusing on being a builder and an engineer. They had some lovely ideas about what being an engineer was and suggested things such as “It’s someone who makes stuff!” and “An engineer fixes things!” We discussed that many engineers try to improve things and decided to use the concept to create some wonderful things from cardboard boxes.



Phonics

This week we did a recap of the sounds we have learnt so far: s, a, m, t and p. The children enjoyed matching the letter sounds to objects and going on a ‘sound hunt’ (finding objects which matched a given sound). They also enjoyed watching Geraldine the Giraffe on Youtube. Many of the children are now becoming more interested in the Montessori pink boxes and moveable alphabet. These are such wonderful resources and allow the children to recognise letter sounds and build short words without even having to pick up a pen. Being able to hear rhythm and rhyme is such an important part of early phonics and the children enjoyed exploring the percussion instruments and using them to copy a simple rhythm. We have also paid much attention to pencil control and building up fine motor strength by taking part in some activities involving ‘Theraputty’ and other malleable materials.



The children absolutely loved learning all about shapes, patterns and colours when we were talking about Diwali. They created rangoli patterns using coloured card and cut out shapes as well as using the traditional method of coloured sand and stencils.

We continue to support the children's ability to recognise numbers 1-5 and to be able to match them to the correct quantity, as well as counting out from a group. The children have enjoyed playing in the minibeast small world and counting the legs of insects as well as grouping and sorting them.



The Wonder of Playdough

Thank you to those of you who attended our parent talks this half-term and we hope they inspired you to try some new things at home. This half-term holiday why not explore the wonder of playdough and use some of the ideas that were shared in the talk on “Supporting the Prime Areas”.

The malleable properties of play dough help to build up strength in all the tiny hand muscles and tendons of children's hands and arms.

- As part of a simple play-based activity it can be squashed, squeezed, rolled, flattened, chopped, cut, scored, raked, punctured, poked and shredded!
- Playdough is an excellent activity to develop fine motor control, support coordination, build strength and aid concentration.

Having a variety of additional extras to use while playing extends the investigation and play possibilities endlessly.

For example:

- Poking in matchsticks or small twigs provides a challenge
- Sticking in spaghetti requires concentration and a delicate hand, they can even try to thread some beads or cheerios onto the spaghetti (a popular activity in the Nursery!)

- Squeezing through a garlic press leads to excitement at seeing it change shape, as well as using a gross motor movement and strength.



Anything else

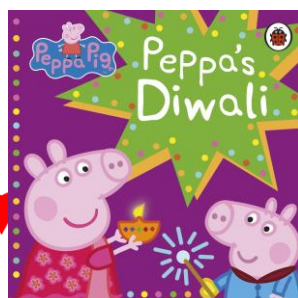
Just a quick reminder, please can parents ensure that all clothes are clearly labelled as we have had a few items go missing recently.



Below are the book suggestions this fortnight which link well with our Diwali celebrations and learning about India:

- Bilal Cooks Daal – Aisha Saed
- Priya Dreams of Marigolds and Masala- Meenal Patel
- Rama and Sita, The story of Diwali – Malachy Doyl
- Chappati Moon- Pippa Goodheart
- Peppa's Diwali
- Leila in Saffron - Rukhsanna Guidroz
- Mina vs. The Monsoon – Rukhsanna Guidroz

Have a wonderful half term break
Nursery Team



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