

## Nursery News

We have enjoyed a lovely couple of weeks and have been taking advantage of all of the activities during free-flow. The children have enjoyed their forest school sessions making natural portraits as well as going on a blindfolded nature walk!



The children have been enjoying phonics in both free-flow and as part of whole group learning. They have been introduced to the sounds 's, a, t and m'. They were very enthusiastic and enjoyed thinking of lists of objects that began with the sounds as well as learning the Jolly Phonics songs. They are becoming more confident at recognising a letter sound and matching it to the corresponding object.

We have a lot of little 'mark makers' in our class this year and the children have been busy drawing and writing using a variety of resources.



There has been a lot of interest in our Montessori equipment this week and the children have particularly enjoyed exploring the Pink Tower making the most wonderful towers.



We have also been exploring shape and size this week and the children have enjoyed exploring a variety of shape themed activities prompting lots of mathematical language. We have been sorting according to shape, size and colour.



Although the weather may be getting cooler we are still enjoying free-flow outside and the children have been taking advantage of the large scale equipment such as the tyres and the bikes. The children love the opportunity to free-flow with the Reception classes outside on Thursdays and our Nursery children are making wonderful friendships with them!



The children have been working so hard on their number recognition and they have been exploring problem solving such as ordering numbers and finding the missing number in a sequence.





Thank you to those of you who attended the Curriculum Talk last week, we hope it was useful and informative.

This half-term holiday why not explore the wonder of playdough? 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 gross motor movement and strength.

When we return to Nursery we will be embracing the 'spooky season' and engaging in a few Halloween themed activities during free-flow and we can not wait!

If you would like to join any of the clubs after half-term please email Mrs Gabriella on [g.emery@therocheschool.com](mailto:g.emery@therocheschool.com) (we still have some spaces for Friday's 'stay and play' session).

We hope you have a wonderful half-term and we look forward to seeing you again on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Best wishes

Nursery Team