



**Happy Diwali!**



The children had the most wonderful time at our Diwali party last 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 diyas, dressed up in some traditional Indian clothes, danced to some Bollywood music and made Rangoli Patterns. A very big thank you to Mrs Tulsi for bringing in all the Indian decorations, clothes and artefacts and for providing the vibrant and interesting activities.

Last week was also all about fireworks and I am sure that many of you noticed an abundance of glitter coming home! The children enjoyed making beautiful glittering firework pictures and told us all about the fireworks displays that visited. We have also thoroughly enjoyed forest school as always and enjoyed some autumn themed activities. The children made beautiful leaf owls and made magic spells in Miss Jacquie's Forest School cauldron for Hallow'een!



## Phonics

This week we did a recap of the sounds we have learnt so far: s, a, m, t and p. The children also learnt the new sound of 'i'. They enjoyed matching the letter sounds to objects and going on a 'sound hunt' (finding objects which matched a given sound). They also enjoyed listening to our alphabet songs. Many of the children are now becoming more interested in the Montessori pink boxes and Large 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 attention to pencil control and building up fine motor strength by taking part in some activities involving 'Theraputty' and other malleable materials.



The children have shown a particular interest in Numicon over the past two weeks and have really enjoyed counting, sorting and matching the tiles and pegs. Numicon is a fantastic resource for counting and enables children to count and match number with quantity in a fun way. The children absolutely loved learning all about shapes, patterns and colours which linked to Diwali. They created Rangoli patterns using coloured card and cut out shapes. 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.



One of the absolute highlights was when we attended a whole school 80s assembly to celebrate 40 years of The Roche School with lively singing followed by a dedicated 80s dance workshop where Nursery learnt 'The Konga!'



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

