

PRE-SCHOOL

This week we have.....

Been looking at leaves as part of our Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme.

Been talking about leaves and have been on some lovely nature walks to collect leaves. We have compared sizes and colours of the leaves, have spoken about Autumn and why they fall off the trees.

Been making transient art with leaves, sticks and pine cones.

Weighed, sorted and matched our rubber animals. Talking about what is heavier, what is lighter, what animals are the same and sorted them into groups.

Listened to a story of Pepper's Pumpkin Party as requested by one of the children. The children then wanted to decorate the Pre-School so it looked spooky like the picture in the book.

Had the sensory lights on and looked at the shadows and lights on the wall.

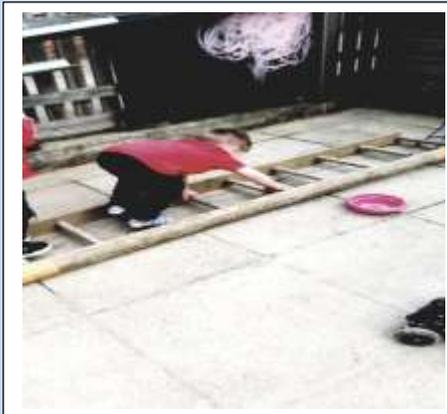
Once again made lots of mudpies, using their senses to create and add texture and scent.

Been building a train track with loose parts, this has been developing over the weeks with the children using more and more loose parts in their builds.

Been showing the children skills to enable them to become more independent in the art area.

Used the dressing up suitcase, it has been well used and the children are able to experience different cultures and this had led to the children asking lots of questions.

Been reading a book and talking about racism. It has been lovely to listening to the children speak about what we have read.



Using our muscles and practicing balancing

Building with the blocks, solving problems and communicating.



Illness

This time of year illnesses are rife, and your child may pick up numerous bugs, as is normal, during this time.

We also have to remember that due to lockdowns children haven't been socialising as much so their immune systems won't be as strong. Our immune system gets used to recognising certain viruses over time and get better at fighting them.

Some information for you from Oxfordshire County Council. Bronchiolitis and RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus).

RSV is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. In children under 2, the more serious consequences of the virus can lead to bronchiolitis. RSV and bronchiolitis are normally seen in the winter but are being seen much earlier this year. Whilst most cases of bronchiolitis are not serious, they can and may require hospital admission. The OUH (John Radcliffe Hospital) have had significant increase in babies and young children admitted with serious bronchiolitis.

NHS information for parents can be found here :

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bronchiolitis/?fbclid=IwAR3Rkcz3RLDi477CipKjMo06o02FoHfQpsQrum_ZzEgUUUZk7eT6Zauiicc

We also need to remain vigilant for COVID-19 and if your child displays any symptoms, please do keep them home and do a lateral flow test and follow the guidance.

Children who have had sickness, diarrhoea must remain at home for at least 48 hours from their last episode.

Pre-School is full on, so if your child is poorly and you think they may not be able to cope with the day please do keep them home. If your child has been given Calpol, for example, before attending Pre-School they shouldn't be coming.

Dates for your Diary (please check Newsletters and online Notice Board for updates)

Half Term

Monday 25th October – 2nd November.

Pre-School starts Wednesday 3rd November.

Applications for Primary School open

2nd November

Christmas Holidays

Pre-School finishes Friday 17th December at 11.45am

Pre-School starts January 4th.

Let's learn at Pre-School and at Home

Nose blowing

With cold and flu season upon us snotty noses are a common sight.

At Pre-School we teach 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' to help try and control the spread of such viruses.

We try and Catch the cough or Sneeze in a tissue, we then Bin the tissue, we then Wash our hands.

We try to teach the children how to wipe their noses and this is where you also come in. If you can help your child learn how to blow and wipe their nose at home followed by washing their hands this keeps up the consistency between us and you. Some of you may feel like your child isn't ready, but you may be surprised. Again, this doesn't just happen, and needs the adult to encourage and support the child and offer praise. Also, they will learn from you so please do role model this to your children.

Tips to help.

Ask your child to blow a tissue, then ask them to blow the tissue using their nose, then pop the tissue on their nose and ask them again to blow the tissue. Trying this as well when your child doesn't have a runny nose is also beneficial as they won't be overwhelmed with the feeling of being bunged up.

Hand Washing

At Pre-School we do a lot of handwashing, when the children first come in, after messy activities, when they come in from outside, after going to the toilet, after blowing their nose, before and after eating and so on.

We practice one pump of soap, then we spread all around our fingers, thumbs and palms then do a good wash to get all the bubbles off, then we dry our hands.

We also have songs to sing, our Pre-School handwash song or Happy Birthday twice.

Going to the toilet

We are removing some, not all, of the potties at Pre-School as we have noticed some of the children who do use the toilet have reverted back to the potty. We want to encourage them to use the toilet and also help them learn how to wipe themselves. This helps them to be 'School Ready'.

For tips for you to do this at home please do look here:

<https://www.eric.org.uk/pages/category/potty-training>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/potty-training-and-bedwetting/how-to-potty-train/>

Benefits of outdoor play

We were going to say we were sorry for sometimes getting your children's clothes dirty, however on reflection we aren't sorry. And this is because we know the benefits of outdoor play outweigh dirty clothes, therefore we will do our best by your children.

The children have access to both the indoors and outdoors throughout the day, choosing freely where they would like to be and what they would like to play with. Outside they can explore different sensations, textures and elements. Sometimes the children may come outside barefoot, we have spoken about the benefits of barefoot play before; but now the weather is changing they may come out barefoot, feel the cold on the ground underneath them and then decide to put their socks and shoes on.

We like to help the children to learn and respect nature, to understand the life cycle of plants and speak of how we can help nature.

Playing outdoors is perfect for children who like to move and learn actively. They build up their muscles and increase their bone strength by doing big movements outside. They keep fit and healthy by running, jumping and climbing. They learn to risk assess, so they become aware of potential hazards and dangers whilst still pushing themselves. They learn to communicate with their friends, extending their vocabulary and building their confidence.

These are only some of what the children learn when they are outside.

Extra provocations we put out, such as mud and water are all through through by us to increase their learning through play.

If you get involved in messy outdoor play then well done, I'm sure you can remember making mud pies or rose petal perfume and so on, maybe try it again with your little ones and feel free to show us.

