

PRE-SCHOOL

Last week we spoke about Badgers as part of our Wanderlust: A Nature study programme.

We had a delivery of some reading pods which the children filled with cushions and snuggled in to read their books.

Some of the children got to work on some Christmas artwork of their choosing, a wonderful snowman and tree were made and decorated. The tree was made from triangles and the snowman circles so we explored shapes within their work. The children worked out what they wanted to do and how they wanted to decorate the items, working together and being imaginative.

We had some wonderful tipping and pouring going on in the inside water table using pasta and rice. By using different size tubs, we looked at volume and numbers, we also added scales to the play to investigate which was heavier and how we could make both weighing buckets the same. The children discussed the colour and shape of the pasta and we spoke about spirals and tubes.

We had lots of role-playing last week, some of the children were being 'babies', they were taking it in turns to sit at the table and feed each other, using the spoons and bowls they collected from the loose parts.

Some of the children were role playing ordering pizza from Dominoes, they rang the order through and then made the pizza then delivered the pizza to the door.

A basic small dinosaur world was created by one of the adults, the children then added lots of loose parts to create their version of dinosaur world. This involved lots of conversation between the children and some wonderful play. It was great to see the children using their imaginations to create their dinosaur world and explore all the materials they chose.

The construction area was in full use and a wonderful pirate ship was built. Again, this meant lots of conversation and team work between the children. They risk assessed as they built to make sure the ship was safe and had fun being pirates and walking the plank.

This week as part of our Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme we are looking at stars and darkness.

Pre-School Christmas Party

Our Christmas party is on Friday 16th December from 11.45am till 3.30pm.
If your child is not in on that day and they would like to attend the party you must let us know by Friday the 9th of December, we will not be able to add children to the party list if you reply after this date, thank you to those of you who have responded already.
You will need to provide your child with a party style packed lunch and a drink for the party.

School Admissions

Please do not forget to do your application for School.

For children born between September 1st 2018 - 31st August 2019 School Admission applications are now open. You must register your child by January 15th 2023.
We cannot do the applications for you and please do remember that we have no control over which Primary School your child will attend.
All information is here <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>

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

- Parent Consultations** Week beginning the 28th November
- Tuesday 13th December** Pre-School Closes at 12.30pm for Staff training
- Friday 16th December** End of term and Christmas Party.
- Thursday 5th January** Pre-School Starts

Home Learning Environment

The Home Learning Environment is the most important environment for your child to learn in, it is where they spend the most time and also with their main educators, you. There are 168 hours in a week and your children are with us for between 9 and 30 of those hours, so keeping the continuity between setting and home is vital for your child's learning and development. This is why we are sending out things for you to do at home with your child, if consistency and continuity isn't there for your child it is hard for them to learn certain things.

So previously we have spoken about rules and boundaries, listening and manners (all previous Newsletters are available to view on our webpage). Today we would like to speak to you about being 'School Ready' for when they start at a Primary School in September, focusing this week on independent personal care.

Being 'School Ready' means:

- Can cope with being separated from their caregivers.
- Have strong social skills
- Independent in personal care

Being able to use the toilet and wipe their bottoms.

Being able to change themselves (For P.E and Forest School as examples)

Wash and dry their hands.

Put on and take off their shoes.

Put on and take off their coats.

Feed themselves

Use a tissue

Tidying up

- Being curious about the world with a desire to learn

To help your child with their personal care we have attached some sheets with more information on certain subjects, you can then read through any that are relevant to you.

To help your child learn how to change themselves you need to make sure the items of clothes or the shoes they wear are child friendly and age appropriate for their development. Laces, buttons and so on may not be the best unless you have the time to teach them how to use them, some children may also not have the development or strength in their hands to use them yet.

Practice getting changed at home, make it fun and exciting, reply to the 'I can't' with an enthusiastic 'You can' and teach and guide them as you go, keeping calm and praising them. Remember things such as socks can be quite tricky and may require a little more practice.

Shoes/boots again can be tricky, fashion shoes/boots with tough zips, buttons or laces may not be the best for your child as they may struggle to get them on or off. Choose a shoe that your child can do themselves and help them to learn which shoe goes on what foot.

To help your child get ready for tidy up time practice at home after they have finished playing with their toys or before going out. Make it fun, praise and encourage as you go.

Learning how to use a knife, fork and spoon is vital for those children who will be having School Lunch. We help the children to develop the strength in their hands by providing activities such as playdough and plastic knives and forks with the playdough to practice.

We look forward to seeing your child's independence increase in the coming months.

Potty Training: <https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

Nose Blowing: <https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/when-will-my-child-be-able-to-blow-his-own-nose/>

Handwashing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjelWLnEg>

Getting dressed: <https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/kids/life-skills/self-care/dressing-myself/>

Using a knife and fork: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cau5cevLg2U>

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/kids/resources/ot-activityinformation-sheets/using-a-knife-and-fork-information-sheet/#:~:text=It%20is%20usually%20easier%20to,bananas%20before%20moving%20onto%20meat.>

Tidying up: <https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/features/article/working-with-families-parent-s-guide-to-tidying-up>