

PRE-SCHOOL

Last week as part of our Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme we spoke about Decorations.

In the construction area the children made compartments out of the blocks and they were then putting other blocks into them and were sorting them by shape and size.

The children have also been sorting the small bugs and vehicles into colour and animal groups, sometimes putting them into bowls in colour or by group, for example all the grasshoppers into one bowl.

Drawing has been popular; we have been trying to encourage the children to draw independently to help them with their fine motor skills and their confidence. A lot of children will say they can't draw so we have used this to give them the confidence to try, we will show them how to do things and then encourage them to try it themselves.

We have been using the timers with certain activities to help the children understand turn taking, this has been quite successful.

The children have also been doing lots of connecting, such as connecting train tracks or the pipes together and also lining objects up. Whilst the children are connecting items, they are working out how they fit together and how they want the track/pipes to be. Problem solving is a big part of this process.

We have looked on the world map to see where everybody is from, this led to discussions about other countries and places which the children had been to. We spoke about how we may get to the different countries and some of the children told us about going on planes or boats.

They have been exploring the ice outside and the drop in temperature, we asked the children why they thought we had ice and listened to their thoughts on ice and the cold weather. This was also a perfect learning opportunity for deciding what clothing they needed to put on if they went outside, we would ask the children how they felt being outside and if they said cold, we would ask what they would need to keep warm. This led to the children getting dressed for the cold independently and also understanding when they had enough of being outside and coming in to get warm.

Some of the children have been doing Christmas arts and crafts, self-selecting what they needed to make/draw their creations. This involved them thinking of what they wanted to do and what materials they would need to create the finished project, collecting those materials and then creating.

We hope you all have a truly wonderful holiday, whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or just having family time.

This time of year can be quite stimulating for children, you may find emotions and behaviour change. Please do remember during this time to be aware of factors that may trigger or challenge the children (such as tiredness, visitors, too much choice etc) so here are some tips to help at this time of year.

- Keep up your daily routine if you can or if it changes explain what is happening either verbally or with a visual time table.
- Keep your home and self (we know it can be difficult) as calm and relaxed as you can, soft lighting, relaxing music etc. Things can still be fun just in a calm way.
- Continue with rules and boundaries, choices and consequences to help the children at home and for when they return to Pre-School.
- Do some physical exercise, take a walk, play a game, pop some music on and dance.
- Take time out to read together, snuggle together for magical story time, this will also help to give the children some relaxation time as well as helping with their speech and language.
- Make sure you all eat well, keep hydrated and get plenty of sleep.
- Take some time for yourself to help you remain calm and relaxed

Fundraising

Sadly, this year we have not been able to do the Santa Sleigh that visits Cholsey every year. This is usually one of our biggest fundraising events raising £500 for Pre-School. We are hoping to make this money up by having an increase in our 'Your School Lottery' tickets, it is only £1 a week and as well as a Jackpot they often have some wonderful prize bundles as well as fundraising for Pre-School. So, if you or a family member or friend can buy a lottery ticket here is the link, don't forget to sign up for the next draw.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/cholsey-preschool>

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

Thursday 5th January Pre-School Starts

February 13th – 17th Half Term, **Pre-School Starts** Monday 20th

March 31st End of term Pre-School closes at 12.30pm, Easter Holidays start

April 17th Term 5 starts