

## PRE-SCHOOL

Last week as part of our Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme we looked at Snowflakes. We looked at the patterns of the snowflakes and spoke about how they are made.

We have been going over our Pre-School rules and boundaries, sometimes these can be hard to remember after having time off, the children have been better at remembering them after this break which is wonderful.

We were looking at shapes, 2d and 3d; the children were looking at how many sides the shapes had or whether they had corners or points to try and help identify the shapes.

The children also looked and explored mark making patterns, circles, up and down lines, zig zags and swirls, the children practiced making these patterns. These activities help the children develop their hand eye co-ordination and fine motor skills by learning which grip they feel comfortable with; repeating these movements will help the children to control the pen/pencil and this all is the start to children being able to write.

The children have been singing lots of nursery rhymes especially nursery rhymes involving numbers and the alphabet. Singing and nursery rhymes are good for helping the children to learn new words and learning about numbers in a fun way.

We did some 'relaxation' last week, this involves laying or sitting, being quiet, focussing on breathing and listening to the words on our children's relaxation c.d, the children really enjoyed this activity.

Outside obstacle courses were popular, these help the children develop their gross motor skills by using their big muscles. The children designed their own obstacle courses using the resources outside.

Puzzles can be tricky for some children, they give up when they feel they cannot do them, so we have been encouraging the children to do the puzzles (if that is the activity they wanted to do) by speaking about turning the puzzle pieces, thinking about which way the pieces may go or trying another piece. This process will help increase their problem solving skills as well as giving them the confidence to do the puzzles again.

Junk modelling was also a favourite last week, the children thought about what they wanted to make and the process of making their designs.

## Working with families

Everything we do at Pre-School is for the benefit of the children, to give them strong foundations to aide them throughout their life, but we are not their main educators, you are.

We have noticed this years Cohort has struggled a little with some Personal, Social, Emotional Development and behavioural skills, this could be due to the restrictions we had during Covid-19 lockdowns.

Working together means we all do the best for your children; over the next few weeks we will be adding extra information to the Newsletter email to help you and your child.

This information is based on what we have seen so far in Pre-School with the children, some maybe relevant to you and some may not, some will be relevant or at least helpful to all of you, we feel it will benefit you and your child to have a read through.

If we have any concerns about your child we would have/will speak to you, so please don't worry, but it's just important we are supporting by getting information to everyone that might want or need it.

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

**February 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>** Half Term, **Pre-School Starts** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** End of term Pre-School closes at 12.30pm, Easter Holidays start

**April 17<sup>th</sup> Term 5 starts**