



Registered Charity No: 900441
Proudly holding Ofsted
Outstanding status

Cholsey Pre-School Newsletter

Fri 1st

What we have been doing

This week as part of Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme we looked at Hibernation.

We have spoke about animals that hibernate and what hibernation is.

We have made dens outside, using the climbing wall as a base to hang blankets off and other loose parts to make the den. We have also made some dens for hedgehogs outside using boxes.

We have been looking at numbers and matching numicons (counting the holes in the numicon) to the written number. This activity helps extend their recognition of numbers and increasing their ability to recite numbers.

In the construction areas the children have been being builders, they have used the foam bricks to balance the planks. As they were building the children were asking the names of the tools and how they work,

Role play has again been popular with the children playing with the dolls and recreating familiar scenarios. They have also role played being at the doctors.

We have been making playdough, the children love this activity, it helps with their gross motor skills and building their shoulder and arm muscles. They have also added sticks and herbs to the playdough to explore texture, smell and colour change.

We have put a small number of resources out this week in the art area, this helps the children to tolerate delay as they wait their turn, to be patient and to use kind words. It also helps the children to be mindful of what we have and that sometimes things can't be used straight away or replaced when broken, so to respect what we have.

Next week as part of Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme we will be looking at Hibernation.

To do at home:

Enjoy a messy play activity together, relax, have fun and enjoy the moment.

Reminders

Please please please can you put your child's name on their water bottles, lunch boxes, snack pots, items of clothing etc.

So many things are coming into Pre-School without your child's name on and it makes it very difficult to know what belongs to who.

Independence.

Your children are at the stage where they are becoming a little more independent. Sometimes they may get frustrated because they may want to do things, but something is stopping them from doing so. Now sometimes this is for good reason because it keeps them safe but other times it can be adjusted to help them achieve their goal.

An example of this is children wanting change themselves, we can help here by helping them learn how to do so and giving them time and support whilst they learn. We can also help them by making sure the items of clothing are easy for the children. If a child needs the toilet but their clothing stops them from being able to go (tough buttons, zips etc) they will become frustrated, upset and embarrassed.

Shoes that are hard for your children to put on will also frustrate them, they may not have the skills to do laces and sometimes zips on shoes and boots are quite tough.

Help your children during this stage by spending time teaching these skills and making sure clothing is suitable for their development stage. This will help your child to become independent, confident and happy.

Messy Play

Do you do Messy Play activities at home? It can be tough right? We are busy doing so many things we really may not want the added job of cleaning up after this type of activity; Paint, clay, water, sand, playdough it gets everywhere, doesn't it?

But do you know the benefits for your child of this type of play?

Children learn about the world around them through this type of play, exploring textures, scents and the sensations of the material. There is also no 'end' result for this type of play, it is about the process, the exploration and the learning.

Messy play activities often involve the child using their big muscles, building these muscles helps the child to develop their motor skills. Motor skills are skills that enable us to control our body to do everyday tasks. Gross motor skills such as crawling, walking, running, jumping, throwing are necessary to help the child with their fine motor skills.

Messy play can also involve fine motor skills tasks, fine motor skills are when we use our smaller muscles in our hands, wrists, fingers and feet to complete daily activities, such as dressing, feeding ourselves and writing. Using our brains, nervous system, eyes and body to co-ordinate to complete the task in hand.

Messy play also helps the children with their vocabulary and language, we can help the children use the language they know and we can help to extend it.

Messy play helps the children with their personal, social, educational development by giving them the confidence to explore new experiences. They can learn how to connect with others, learn how to share, learn how to develop self-control, learn how to problem solve and work with others.

Messy play can help children learn about spatial awareness, patterns, weights and numbers.

Messy play can help the children to be free in their creations, selecting the resources they need, enjoying the process to achieve their end goal.

The messy play benefits really outweigh the negatives and there are a few things that can make it easier to do this type of activity at home. Choosing the correct type of clothing, having spare clothing to hand and setting up the area to make it easier to clean after.

At Pre-School we do suggest waterproofs for example when playing with water and mud, depending on the child though they may or may not want to put these on. If they chose not to, we won't make them as they may then stop the play and all the learning that goes with it, we would rather change them after, so they carry on with the play. Having the choice is important as some children do like to put these on, if your child has waterproofs and welly's please do bring them in (also help them to learn how to put them on so they can be independent).

Let us know what Messy Play you have been getting up to.

Dates for your diary

1st December Cholsey Primary School Christmas Fayre

14th December Christmas Song concert 9.15am

Pre-School Christmas Party Friday 15^h December 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Pre-School Term 2 finishes Friday 15th December at 3.30pm

Pre-School Term 3 starts Tuesday 9th January

Pre-School Session Times

Morning 8.45am- 11.45am

Afternoon 12.30pm – 3.30pm (Gate will open at 3.15 for those picking siblings up from the Primary School)

All Day 8.45 – 3.30pm

Breakfast Club 8am – 8.45am (Booking required by 4pm the previous day)

After School Club 3.30pm – 5.30pm (Booking Required)