

Cholsey Pre-School Newsletter

Dec 8th

What we have been doing

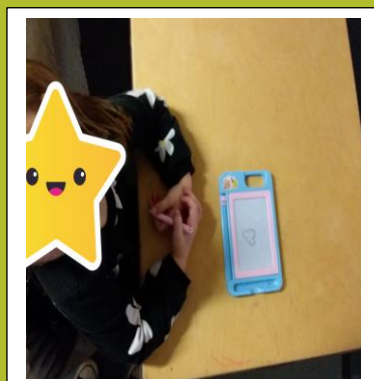
This week as part of Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme we looked at Winter Trees.

We spoke about the difference between the trees now and how the trees were in the summer. We looked at the leaves on the ground.

We have been practicing our Christmas songs for the little singing show next week.

We have been looking at the shells in Pre-School and trying to find out what lived in the shells. The children noticed the shells were different, different shapes and patterns and they all had their favourite. We looked on the Ipad to discover what lived in the shell, such as snails, clams and oysters.

The children have been doing observational drawing and transient art. Observational art is where we put some items out and see how the children draw them by looking at them. Transient art is where the children gather natural resources such as sticks and pebbles to then make art wherever they are. The children have also created transient art inside empty photo frames.



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

Christmas Party

Just a reminder to say we have our Christmas Party next Friday at 12.30pm.

If your child is not normally in on a Friday afternoon and they would like to come please do let us know by next Wednesday.

For all children coming to the party all they need to bring is a party tea (anything they would eat if they were at a party, please no nuts though), their water bottles and their dancing feet!



To do at home:

Play your favourite game together, practice turn taking.

EYFS

Sometimes people wonder why we do the things we do and why we have checkpoints.

It's very easy to think all we do at Pre-School is play and that this play doesn't really mean anything. The way things are promoted such as '15/30 hours free childcare' tends to send signals out that all early years settings are somewhere for parents/carers to drop children off just to care for your child and that is all and their main learning starts at 'big school' This is true, we do care for your child but we do so much more, we are early years educators. We know the first 5 years of your child's development is the most important, your child's learning starts from the moment they are born. These early years are where your child's brain develops the most, where we can help them get to know their self, increase their self-confidence, give them the skills to see them through school and life, give them tools to help with their mental wellbeing and so much more.

Any registered early years provider must follow guidance set out by the Government and the DFE called the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The framework sets the standards for development, learning and care of children from birth to five.

Your child will have 3 checkpoints, one at 2 years with the health visitor, one at the start of reception/foundation and one when they finish they finish reception/foundation and are getting ready to start year one.

Before your child started with us you were sent our welcome pack and in this it had an explanation of the EYFS, the prime areas and the specific areas. We use this throughout your child's time with us to see where they are, how they are getting on and how we can help with their learning.

Examples of these checkpoints for 3 – 4-year-olds can be: Can understand 'why' questions, such as 'Why did the ice melt?' or be able to play with one or more children, extending and elaborating play ideas.

We know each child learns differently and at different times and our job is to help them be the best they can be, understand how they learn as individuals and give them the opportunities to learn during their time with us. Children are not little robots, they have their own way of learning, their own interests, personalities and a zest to learn what they can, we like to tap into this, after all we all learn when things interest us and are enjoyable. Even though all registered settings follow the EYFS it is up to each setting how they deliver it, we choose to do it slightly differently to some other settings and are proud to do so.

So if you ever wonder why we do what we do please do speak with us and we can explain a little more.

Dates for your diary

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)