



### **End of the week news**

#### **Acorns – cohort 1**

The acorns have shown lots of interest in 2d and 3d shapes this week, identifying shapes in their local environment and comparing 2d and 3d shapes and how they share similarities.

Some of the boys were exploring the fallen leaves out in the garden, collecting them to build a leaf pile and then taking turns to jump from different heights into them. They learned a new game called granny's pancakes, the idea of the game is to try and snatch granny's pancakes (leaves) while she has a nap. Every time she wakes up, the granny's grandchildren must freeze. If the grandchildren snatch the pancakes, granny must chase her grandchildren around and whoever gets caught first must be granny.

The acorns had a big discussion on our nursery rules, we started with being Responsible and the children gave us good feedback about the things they could do within the nursery to be Responsible, we will focus on Respectful and Ready to Learn next week.

#### **Seedlings – cohort 3**

The seedlings had their long week this week. We started their week by exploring a talking tub based around fireworks, this was responsive learning from a conversation with some of the children. We had lots of discussion relating to safety around fireworks, colours of fireworks and why we see them at this time of year. The children had the opportunity to make their own fire work pictures using paints, chalks, and gluing, they even made their own fire work sand by adding powder paint to it. The children are continuing their interest in friendships and how friendships are important. This week we listened to the story Friends by Eric Carle and What are friends for.

The sand has been a busy area this week with the seedlings, we had soapy sand, shaving foam sand, normal sand and of course the fire works sand. The children have been exploring the textures and developing their literacy using words such as gooey, squishy, squeezy, grainy etc. They were able to develop their creative and imaginative skills by moulding and shaping it depending what ingredient was added to it.

They have been learning about the skeleton this week and the purpose of having one in our body. One of the children said, "if we didn't have one, we would be like jelly". The children had the opportunity to make their own skeletons at the craft area using cotton buds and black paper. We were able to extend this interest into French Friday and learn about our body parts, we done this by learning head, shoulders, knees and toes in French.

#### **Forest School Learning**

This week was the turn of the children in cohort 2. Thank you to all the parents who remembered to bring their welly boots, there is a lot of mud around just now and this was great because it meant the children can explore freely.

We had a great focus on how to travel down hill with the Acorn group. Surprisingly they chose to use the smaller of the two hills and explored rolling down, hopping down, running, crawling and sliding. They had so much fun and really loved the freedom of being in nature. Some of the boys wanted to build dens and did this by working together in a group, sourcing large logs and with a little help we made it into a tepee shape. They then worked as a team finding more logs to add to the main frame. It's so lovely to see them challenge themselves, work collaboratively and enjoy sharing their achievement with others.

The seedlings spent their forest school session on the field as they found a huge amount of leaves and had so much fun throwing, making leaf angels and lying on the leaves watching the aeroplanes go over head that we never actually went into the woodland! However, we don't need to do that to



explore forest school. So, while one group was having fun in the leaves another was taking time to learn about different tools and skills we will learn in the woods. We had a look at an axe and some knives that in time the children will be able to do wood whittling with. This will be done one to one with the adult and not until I feel they are able to fully follow instruction. However, they were really interested in looking at the tools and talking about the safety behind using them so that's a brilliant start. Over the next few weeks, we will explore fire and its uses in the context of forest school learning.

Please remember next week will be the turn of the children in Cohort 1 – Please make sure your child is wearing warm clothes, the whole experience of the forest is made better for them if they are warm, cosy and dry. We will still go even in the rain. The only weather that would prevent us being able to go would be severe rain and high winds. Please bring their welly boots to nursery its very muddy out there and we don't want shoes to get ruined.

We will attend forest schools on Monday and Thursday

### **Acorns – Cohort 2**

The Acorns continue to enjoy exploring physical play and learning. Many of the children have spent a great deal of time out in the garden exploring. There has been a huge amount of interest around pouring, and colouring water outdoors. There was an ice-cream shop where the children were turn taking to add their own ingredients to the mixture. This was particularly nice because the group of children were not ones who would normally play together so its super to see new bonds and friendships emerging every day. There were also other children coming and going to this activity to see what was going on and to add their pieces of information but not necessarily want to be involved in the play. One boy came to me said “What are you doing?” “We are creating ice creams” “I like Ice cream, I like the red kind, I think its strawberry, yes that's it” – then away he went happy in departing this information to me. We have noticed some really great conversations and extended use of vocabulary within both Acorns and Seedlings and this is so great to observe and see how we can challenge this and take their learning further.

A great deal about bonfire night and fireworks this week. We discussed fireworks and fire safety with the children and have enjoyed watching some videos of fireworks too. Lots of introduction of words such as fizz, whizz, bang and boom were used and some lovely colourful paintings and chalk drawings.

### **Cohort 4 Seedlings**

Its been a very busy week for the seedlings they have been very involved in bonfire night and hearing the story around Guy Fawkes. One child informing me “he was a bad guy and went to prison”

We had some discussion about the Government and the rules they make and how Guy Fawkes didn't like them so he wanted to do a bad thing and that was wrong. We looked at pictures of the Houses of parliament and looked at some pictures of Guy Fawkes, they children thought her looked funny with his funny clothes and hat.

They made some lovely firework pictures with potatoes and paint and some children enjoyed making a fire work sky with sprinkles and stars.

We also made bonfire toffee with a group of the children who had been talking about fireworks with me. I had told them when I was a little girl, I had loved the smell of toffee in the house and one of the girls asked “Why did you have toffee” I explained this was a tradition in our house and something I had carried on with my children. She then said can we make some too. So, the nursery



was filled with the smell of my childhood this week. I hope the children enjoyed their toffee when they got home, I did but not sure my teeth are up to the job now a days!

**Dates for your diary**

**Children in need**

If the children would like to bring £1 and dress up, wear their pjs or onesies that is fine.

The days they can do this are:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - All Seedlings

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - All Acorns

Christmas dates will follow but Christmas is not cancelled!

**Extended Hours**

As you know recently you have returned letters to us regarding the extended hours. Please note below message.

"Dear Parents Thank you for returning your forms regarding an additional day at our ELC setting or outdoor setting. In order to ensure that we have received a response from everyone, we have spent this week contacting some parents for this information. We will now be working hard to review your responses. Thank you for your patience. We hope to be in touch with you as soon as possible."