



The Birds

What a great week it has been. The children started their extra day this week and they have been so resilient and settled in really well to their new environment. They have been learning the names of their new groups the Robins, the Finches, the Sparrows, the Starlings and the Wrens. We also learned some facts about the birds, what they look like, where they live and what they eat. The children used their creative skills to make their own birds at the craft area. We also had some bird watching outside using the binoculars and loose parts to make their own binoculars, some of the children were able to identify seagulls and magpies from our bird chart check list.

We also the week off with St Andrews Day, the children had the opportunity to weave their own tartan at the craft area developing hand eye coordination and fine motor skills. We also had flag making at the art easel and Scottish music at music and movement. We also celebrated Romania National day also known as great union day and Miss Maracineanu (Miss M) was able to share her knowledge of her country with the children. We listened to the Romanian national anthem and the children had the opportunity to make more flags this time red, yellow and blue for Romania. The end of the week brought us some change in the weather which the children had noticed and had lots of discussion about how slippy the ground was on the way to nursery. The children explored the nursery garden, finding whatever they could to break the ice. There was also lots of role play with the ice using the crushed it to make ice lollies, ice pies and ice cream cones. One of the children held up a piece of ice and said “this is science”, we spoke about how water can change form when the temperature gets really cold, turning from a liquid to a solid.

Sign - a - long

Mrs Stark has been teaching the staff and children to sign a long too “We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year” the children will continue to practice this over the next few week.

Talk Time

This week Mrs Dalziel and Mrs Sutherland focused on getting to know the new children and introducing new groups. The purpose of talk time is to develop social skills such as interactions, turn taking and developing listening skills within small groups.

French Fridays

This Friday the children made French flags to continue their interest in flag making. They have also been learning to count to 10 in French.



The Woodland Animals.

We have been thrilled to welcome the children this week and delighted so many are now enjoying an additional day in the ELC, The children have managed the changes to their day brilliantly and have had lots of fun exploring and learning in their new areas and meeting new friends. New relationships are already forming with both other children and with staff.

In the Woodland animals we have the 5 groups:

- The Squirrels – Mrs Paterson,
- The Badgers – Mrs Fenwick,
- The Foxes – Mrs Taylor,
- The Rabbits – Mrs Morgan

- Hedgehogs with Miss Pye

The children this week have been learning what group they are and getting to know their group their key worker teacher. This might take a little time for them to get used to as they have been in a colour group since August. They have had great fun talking about what group they are in and I have enjoyed tidy time with the Squirrels as we are pretending to be squirrels and hiding (Tidying!) things away.

In the art area we have provided resources for the children to explore these animals. Putting out different types of material, fluffy, smooth, various colours, matchsticks and different sized eyes. There has been lots of discussions about spiky Hedgehogs, stripy black and white badgers, fast Squirrels and Rabbits and how Hedgehogs move. We will be learning lots more about the animals in the groups over the next few weeks. Most of which are nocturnal, and this leads nicely from the learning about light and dark recently.

Many children are of course now talking about Christmas and have enjoyed making Christmas cards, letters to Santa and birthday cards too. They have enjoyed practicing their cutting skills using cards with penguins and lots and lots of lovely sparkly glitter!

The children have also decorated the two twiggy trees we have in the Early Years and they look fantastic. The children took this all on themselves and we stepped back to see how they managed. Photos next week!

There have been Christmas dinosaurs with antlers and lots of garden exploration especially in the lovely snow! There was some wonderful use of language in the snow. Words such as cold, wet, slippery, slushy, squelchy and above all fun! Poor Miss Pye was targeted with snowballs too. Some children wanted to add water to the snow to experiment to see what would happen. Words such as melty and slushy were used to describe the liquid. The children noticed that the soil around the plants wasn't brown anymore but white "Just like Christmas" one child told Miss Pye. Some of the children enjoyed making ice creams with the snow and had some really interesting flavours and prices too!

We have listened to the Nativity story with the children and then chatted about what they had learnt about the story. We will continue this with the children in the coming days.

Each day we have enjoyed opening the beautiful wooden advent calendar that Mrs Taylor has brought into the setting. Such excitement as to what is behind the door at the end of each day. So far a drum, rocking horse, spinning top. The children are taking it in turns to open the door each night before they go home, a lovely end of the day activity. This has of course included lots of numeracy. Counting how many doors there are, how many children and if there will be enough for everyone to have a turn (fortunately there are!) and number recognition when finding the days door. The joy on the faces when they see the surprise inside is lovely.

In the playdough there has been a lot of lovely green dough encouraging tree decoration taking place, this has had to include turn taking, sharing and numeracy.

We have had icy blue water play for the children to explore though this was also explored using the Christmas playdough trees. They soon disappeared and the water changed colour- great bit of science and messy play for those needing this experience.

Forest School.

During our forest school adventures on Thursday we did some excellent listening and following instructions. Some children enjoyed exploring the large muddy puddle and some enjoyed helping me with the fire pit. We were able to have a fire this week this gave me lots of opportunity to talk with the group about safety and what they understood about fire and staying safe. It was really great to hear what the children understood and how I can enhance this understanding for them. We all

helped to set the fire firstly by fluffing up our cotton wool balls to make them bigger. Then we sorted sticks into different sizes and widths and set these aside until we were ready. I showed the children the flint which we have called "Dragons breath". I was able to explain and question the children about safety aspects around the fire such as why we had a bucket of water close by, why I sat with only one knee on the ground, why we have a safety square around the fire.

We discussed the three things a fire needs, Oxygen, fuel and heat. It was a really great learning experience and a team building activity for the children to enjoy working together and gaining an understanding of how fire effects the environment.

All in all a very busy week for both groups of woodland Birds and Animals in King's Park Early Years.

Changes of Alternate Fridays.

You should have all received a letter regarding your child's new additional day and this letter also have included information as to your child's first Friday.

4th or the 11th of December. You will then continue every alternate Friday from either the 4th or 11th If you are unsure please contact us and we will be very happy to help.

Pick up time

As groups have now changed please can we ask parents to wait at the below designated areas going forward when collecting children.

Please can we ask come forward to collect your child from the staff at the gate as it is difficult to see faces when wearing masks and if you can move aside quickly once you have your little one that would be really helpful.

Parents wishing to talk to staff may wait in the Talking corner area and we will happily chat once the children have safely left the ELC garden.

Waiting areas for Parents

The Birds – please stand to the left of the nursery gate remembering to wear masks and socially distance from each other.

The Woodland Animals – please stand to the right of the nursery gate remembering to wear masks and socially distance from each other

Christmas

Mrs Rao has added the letter sent out to school regarding Christmas activities to seesaw this week. We will be having lots of fun with the children over the Festive week of the 14th and will make sure though things are different this year Christmas is definitely not cancelled in King's Park ELC. Don't forget our Festive Fridays and the children can dress as festively as they want to.

Christmas lunch for the children will be December 17th

Eye tests take place 15th and 16th December

End of term 22nd December 2020