

## Orchard Nursery Learning Focus Autumn 3

Let us see what has been happening in nursery...



Some of our children really take note of the world around them and the other creatures we share our world with. This tiny snail was found in the garden and discussions took place about its size and appearance. The children then went on to make comparisons with our nursery giant African snails, showing wonderful understanding and use of mathematical language.



We have had lots of wet weather recently and what a fantastic opportunity to explore our world. These experiences are so important for our children.

They not only help our children understand the weather, water as a material and how it feels but also helps in building their bodies through the big movements they do, working on their core through balancing when walking in wellies and wading through puddles. When they move and play, they are also building and exercising their brains. They gain a better understanding of how to manoeuvre in a wet environment, it builds on early science and maths understanding and skills, if I jump with more force, I can make a bigger splash, when the rain is light there are less ripples in the puddles, when the rain fall is heavy there are lots of ripples around each rain drop. These experiences are so rich not to mention lots of fun!



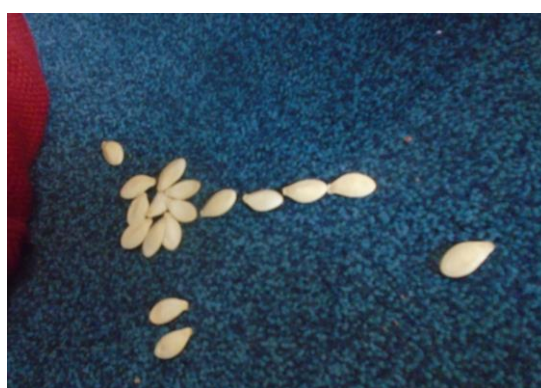
Our children will always have the option to explore their environment outside, in all weathers. Please ensure your child comes to nursery equipped for whatever the weather brings. We look forward to the arrival of snow!

The children enjoyed watching and exploring the changes in the puddle when powder paint was added. They watched how it moved as they moved and jumped in the puddle and then realised it had all gone, so asked for more paint. Other children asked for the paint to be put on their wellies and watched what happened when they lowered their foot into the puddle. One child noticed the paint had moved to the puddle on the other side of the gate, outside of nursery. What a wonderful and magical way to learn about dispersion. This understanding and firsthand experiences is what lays the foundation for their learning and understanding at school and is what we want our children to have lots of. Thank you for enabling us to give these experiences to our children and supporting us through ensuring your child has plenty of spare clothes including lots of socks.





We have had lots of fun exploring pumpkins gaining a better understanding and using the language of size, shape, and weight to describe the pumpkins, as well as showing some understanding of similarities and differences. Children have enjoyed singing five little pumpkins to the tune of ten green bottles.



Children have created observational drawings of pumpkins, and some used the seeds for placing and arranging, when a pumpkin cracked when being rolled down the ramp.



Children explored the inside of a pumpkin, they worked hard to scoop out the pulp and seeds and then had opportunity to explore them further.

Children, with support, cut up some pumpkins with other vegetables and made pumpkin soup to try.

Some pumpkins were used as bird feeders and left for the wildlife to enjoy during half term.

In the paint room some children used the collected leaves we have for some leaf printing using paint or using wax crayons to do some wax rubbings of the leaves.



The frosty and foggy morning make the spider webs glisten and look so beautiful and noticeable. On close inspection with the children, we noticed that these webs were made quite differently. One web was in the pattern of a classic web but the other one had a continuous spiral shape from the middle to the outside.



One spider had even tried to spin a web from the tree to the wooden fence in the garden. We only noticed it as a leaf was hanging in it. Absolutely amazing to see our children discover and notice what spiders can do.





It is wonderful to see role play evolving as children are using resources to represent things in their play. The corks in this photograph are chicken nuggets and chips, and the baby is being feed too, all together at the table.



Our children have had the opportunity to explore shaving gel. Watching how it changes as they play and move it. They noticed the marks they were making and explored the marks other things would make such as vehicles and dinosaurs.



Children had the experience available of rolling conkers down the pipe with lots of discussion about which one went the furthest and which one travelled the shortest. We added some paint so the children could watch and notice the marks made by the conkers rolling down and continue building on their knowledge of distance with some discussion about speed too.



Some children did not like the paint on the conkers after they had rolled down the pipe. One child suggested we needed to wash them. Great thinking!

Continuing from their learning about speed and the distance items travel, some children have been experimenting with different vehicles and watching them travel down the ramp, saying which one went the furthest. When more than one child is playing, they let the cars go at the same time, having a race, with the one that travels the furthest winning. It has also given the opportunity to share nursery toys and take turns.



The interest in the leaves is still ongoing as the children notice the changes in the world around them. They have been working on their raking/brushing skills and lots of children can now coordinate using tools to make a pile of leaves, which they have lots of fun in dispersing by kicking or throwing up in the air, seeing how high they can throw them.





The whole staff team hope you all had a lovely half term break and were able to do something fun. Thank you to all our families who were able to complete the half term home learning activity. It has been lovely to hear about what they found and the memories they have made. Children had time to collectively draw to show us and each other about their experiences.



We have been learning about this celebration of Diwali. We have told the story of Rama and Sita that is shared and remembered at Diwali. We talked about how Diwali is celebrated and looked at some Indian artefacts. Children have been creating their own henna patterns and creating collaborative firework and rangoli patterns with chalk, paint or with different coloured paper shapes and glue.





Firework art piece using the colours of Poppies inspired by the work of artist Jackson Pollock.



We have been talking about Remembrance Day or Poppy Day as many of our children call it. We have talked about the symbolism of Poppies and watched the short, animated film called 'Poppies' on CBeebies looking at and discussing what was happening and how the rabbit felt. We had some wonderful observations the children shared and asked to watch it again. Children watched the aeroplane drop Poppies over Bedworth and parts of the Bedworth Remembrance parade from previous years. Some children had lots of questions about the marching and the uniforms they saw.

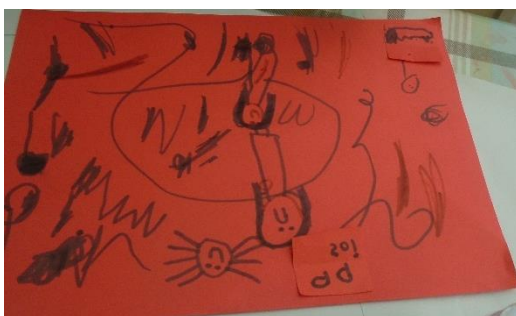
Here is the link to the CBeebies 'Poppies' animation.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/poppies>





Children have enjoyed drawing and making their own poppies, both individually and also collaboratively. It has also given some opportunities to explore different methods of sticking items together in their creations, using both glue and tape.



Some children are beginning to layer onto their work, drawing on the little pieces of red paper and adding them on to their creation with glue.

Army small world was developed to give children the opportunity to extend their imaginative play skills but also to give children the opportunity to express their understanding of the role of the armed forces in the world today.

