

Orchard Nursery Learning Focus Share Spring Term 4

Let us have a look at what has been happening in nursery...

We have continued to talk about kindness we have spoken about the special people in our lives, people who make us feel happy and safe. We discussed how we can do something kind for those special people in our lives. So, our children decorated pots and planted sunflower seeds for Mother's Day, to give to their mummies or their special person. We hope they are growing well.



The sand we had used for encouraging mark making was 'no wet sand', so on a particularly wet day we got to see what happens if water is added, when little droplets of rain landed in the tray. It looked amazing as each droplet got covered in the sand and looked like little pebbles. It raised curiosity in some children who wondered what would happen if they touched it. They saw the drops join and change as they tried to squash them and move them around the tray.



Our children have been working on their physical skills and having lots of practise with taking turns, on the bikes at nursery. Children have a really good understanding of the strategies they can use for turn taking and some are able to do this independently now. It's great to see how children progress from not able to pedal to really persevering and eventually being able to pedal the bike around the playground. We have bikes of varying ability too.



Inspired by the world around them, the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and project work, children have been building lots of different structures, roads, houses, dens, shops, doctors...

We are noticing more awareness of what makes up a house, the different rooms, such as kitchen, living room, bedroom and they are using these elements in their play. Children are talking more about what they have built, it's purpose and how it is intended to be used.





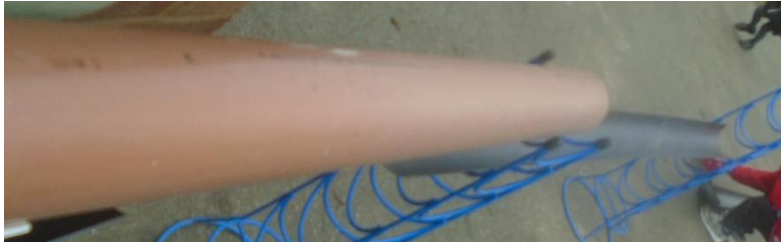
Some of our children are really engaging in making those big marks using chalks in the garden and it has been lovely to see children using their understanding of pattern too.



We have been taking a closer look at flowers and some children have taken the opportunity to draw them. The thought and observation of details was wonderful to see.

Some children enjoyed the challenge of trying to throw balls into the umbrella. Again, it was wonderful to see children persevere and the pride in their face when they managed to do it was fantastic. A fun way of really working on hand-eye co-ordination. We also saw children problem solve by thinking of ways to get the balls out of the umbrella too.





Children also worked on their problem-solving skills when using the pipe holders and pipes to make a ball/car run. They brought more pipes or moved pipes to extend it and make it longer. They stopped and assessed if their plan worked and made tweaks if it did not. It also helped some of our children with sharing and taking turns.



Spring is definitely here!



We looked at pictures of the areas around the garden at wintertime and children were able to spot the differences. We have noticed the growth, the buds, the catkins, and baby leaves beginning to grow in our garden. We talked about how we should be kind to the trees, flowers and plants growing and the important job they all do.



The garden is coming alive! Children are noticing the minibeasts in our garden too. It is fantastic to hear children using their mathematical language when talking about what they have found.

“I found 4 worms; this one is really long.”

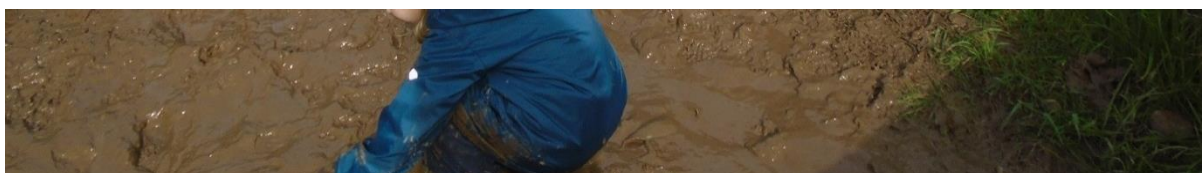
“I found a baby worm, it is tiny.”

“Look ladybird! It has 1, 2, 3, 4 spots.”

“Its body is small and orange. It’s got big legs.” (about the spider)

When it was time to put the worms back, one child suggested the compost bin. What a good idea!

Our children enjoyed the experience of playing with the parachute. They enjoyed crawling under it and then enjoyed watching it move and fill with the wind, jumping up to try and catch it. Lots of fun, smiles, and giggles.



As the weather has started to get a little drier and less rain, access to the mud has been possible. The children loved to squelch and squerch through the mud.



Some of our children have been observing the snails. They have been learning how to look after them, what they need and looking at the spiral of the snail's shell. They have also been asking questions such as, where do snails live?



It was lovely to hear children talk about their favourite characters when we celebrated World Book Day. Staff put on a performance of 'The Three Little Pigs' for the children, which we hope they enjoyed.

Some children helped make the props for the show and they did an amazing job.

We discussed with our children the things we need to live and be safe, things like clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, healthy food to eat, clothes to wear, a home to live in, a bed to sleep in and someone who loves us, helps us, and looks after us. We all need these and its nice to have toys to play with too and the children agreed. We spoke how some people/children, here and around the world may not have some of these things and some may not have very many of these things and how lucky we are when we do. We discussed the important work charities do to help people who do not have these things we need and how kind they are to help others.



On Red Nose Day, staff put on another performance of The Three Little Pigs but with a slightly different story. The pigs liked to have all the things they wanted, including the wolf's toys, they snatched toys, used unkind words, and made her cry. They called her 'stinky wolf' and it was amazing to see the empathy our children showed to the wolf, they said 'Call them stinky pigs' and the wolf said she didn't want to because they were unkind and knows how unkind words felt. The pigs wanted to move out and build their own house, so first they built a house of straw, the wolf and children knew that the house was not safe, it was not strong, but the pigs wouldn't listen, so they asked her to prove it, so she did, and she huffed and puffed with the children's help. The pigs were cross the wolf blew done their house. So, they decided to build a house of sticks, but the children and wolf decided it still wasn't strong enough, so told the pigs again and told her to go away. Wolf was worried that the house would still fall down so the pigs ask the wolf to prove the house is not strong enough, so the children and the wolf did. The pigs were very cross. In the end, the pigs asked the wolf to help them build a strong house, the children and the wolf decided they should make a house of bricks and they all worked together to build a house of bricks. It was a strong, safe house and the three little pigs and the wolf become the best of friends and lived happily ever after.



We have been looking at the shape of an egg. We have been creating transient art in different sized egg shapes and it has helped children use and understand mathematical language of bigger, smaller, biggest, smallest. In the frames, children are using the colours to symbolise things from their experiences, such as going to the seaside, using blue for the sea, and the cork for the sand, 'where you walk'. One child put some corks into the sea and said that was the rubbish in the sea, showing wonderful awareness of what is happening in the world. We talked about what actions we could take to look after our world.



In nursery, we have been learning about the celebration of Easter. Last week we looked at who celebrates Easter and how Christians remember the story of how Jesus died and then arose to celebrate new beginnings.

In nursery we have been having lots of eggciting fun and looking at different patterns. Children have had the opportunity to pair different patterned eggs, lots of children have engaged in the patterned egg hunt in the garden, they have explored playing with plastic eggs in the sand/water and played egg and spoon races.



Our children have been decorating egg shapes using different resources. We have talked about different patterns and children have recreated some of them and worked on their cutting skills when cutting the egg shape out.



We have been amazed by the creativity of the bonnets you all made for the Easter bonnet parade, they were absolutely fantastic. Thank you for taking the time to make them with your child, it was so lovely to see the pride the children had in sharing their creation with us and their friends, and we all loved making our Easter headbands in nursery too, peeling and gluing their chosen resources is great for fine motor skills too.

We also shared the story of 'We're going on an Egg Hunt' which was a fantastic way to incorporate counting and number recognition.



Children were so happy when they saw the apple seeds, they had planted have started to grow. How exciting! Some children were looking for the apples so we are going to observe how they grow.

