

Our sharing diary

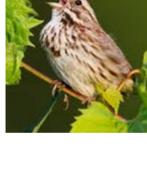
31st October Listening



This half term we are continuing with our focus on listening to sounds as well as watching how the seasons are changing.

Edward went into our outdoor classroom where it is much quieter to play the sound lotto game with a small group of children. They listened to the CD and pointed to the picture if they could hear that sound.

The children also went on an Autumn walk to listen to the different sounds outdoors.



7th November Celebrating Nursery Rhyme Week



This week we have begun looking at words that rhyme by focusing on Nursery Rhymes. The children have had the opportunity to dress up and act out the rhymes. As we said the rhymes we emphasised the words that rhyme.

We decided it would be nice to make some jam tarts to go with the rhyme "The Queen of Hearts". We began by explaining about hand washing and wearing aprons so we didn't spread germs. We rolled the pastry into a ball and pushed it into the tart tin using our fingers and thumbs to make the pastry fit then spooned in some jam. The children took their tarts home when they were cooked.



11th November Making "Silly soup"

This is an activity that we sometimes use to introduce our children to words that rhyme. We add an object, one at a time to a large bowl, emphasizing the word, then say the rhyme as the child stirs the soup. When we add the next item we compare the sound of the words to show how the words sound similar. The child stirs the soup and says the rhyme again. We usually use just 3 items at a time, such as "hat, cat and bat".



Silly soup rhyme

I'm making lots of silly soup,
I'm making soup that's silly,
I'm going to put it in the fridge,
and make it nice and chilly

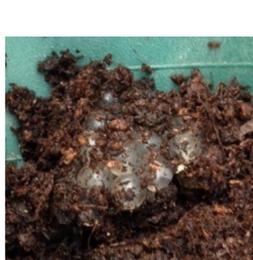


16th November Planting bulbs for the Spring



Now is the time to plant bulbs for spring. A few of the children helped to get the soil ready in the large planters. Sarah showed them all a picture of a daffodil, and fingers crossed, our bulbs will look just like the picture when they have grown.

The children were each given a daffodil bulb to plant. Sarah dug individual holes, and each child popped their bulb in, then covered it with soil. Most of the children asked if they could water the bulbs, Sarah explained that the soil was already very damp, so we wouldn't need to water them for a while.



17th November "Children in Need" cake



This week we have been fund raising for "Children in Need". The children covered a chocolate cake with frosting and helped stick the "Kit Kat" pieces around the edge and Tori secured them with a ribbon. Then they filled the centre with Smarties.

To win the cake the children or their parents had to guess how many "Smarties" there were on the cake and the money raised went to Children in Need.



Whilst looking in a bag of compost, Sarah came across some snail eggs. The children were curious about them and Sarah explained what they were. She placed them somewhere safe for them to hatch out and we will check them again in the spring.



21st November Our Very Special Visitors



Today we had a some very special visitors to our setting. A company called "Rigmoor Reindeers" brought "Amos" and "Diesel" two of their reindeer for the children to meet. Parents were also invited to meet the reindeer along with their children.



The children sat in the sleigh at first and a reindeer was brought towards to them. As the children became more confident around the reindeer they were able to stroke them and to feed them with reindeer moss if they wanted to.

24th November Thanksgiving



This year we have a family who celebrate Thanksgiving so we decided to celebrate with them and make a "Pumpkin pie". The children were encouraged to smell the spices, ground ginger and cinnamon and then to taste the pie at snack time.

We also set up a display and asked the children what they felt thankful for. We did try to explain what "being thankful" meant.



"I'm thankful that the reindeers finally arrived safely" said Jacquie, (they had been stuck in a traffic jam), Isobel was thankful "for the moon".

29th November A winter walk



Today it is a beautiful crisp, frosty morning, a lovely day to go for a walk and explore our natural surroundings. Everyone put on their coats, hats and gloves, ready for the cold outside. Jack touched the white frosty grass, "Cold" he said.



Surinder had brought in some fake snow flakes for the children to investigate. She poured a small amount of the powder in each child's palm then poured a little water onto the powder and asked the children to observe what was happening. As the flakes grew in their hand, Surinder asked them what the texture of the flakes felt like. "Funny and cold" said Orlagh, "Soggy and cold" added Joseph.

5th December Tiny Signers



Today we had a visit from Karen from Tiny signers. Karen has been visiting our setting for the past few years and brings along her large puppet "Signing Sam". She uses Sam to teach the children the Makaton signs for key words in songs and rhymes and for the stories she reads. We have been using Makaton signs for some time and they have proved really useful when working with children who need extra help with their communication skills, all our children enjoy joining in with signing. At the end of the session they queue up and sign "thank you" to receive their sticker.



thank you



6th Dec Making Bird food and decorations for the tree



Some children had been playing in the mud kitchen last week, pretending to mix bird food so Karen bought in some lard and bird seed to make fat balls to feed the birds over winter. We made some for our gardens and some we made in Christmas shapes to take to hang on the Community Christmas tree outside a local supermarket.



In the evening some members of staff and families went into Halton to decorate the tree with the decorations we had made and to watch the lights on the Christmas tree switched on. A lovely community event.



9th December Blunderbus Theatre Visit



Today was a special day here at Nursery. We had a visit from a theatre company called "Blunderbus" who performed a panto style production of a story called Santa's little helper. All the children sat really well and watched the performance, joining in with the singing and interacting with the actors, calling out to them and answering their questions.

They enjoyed watching Tori being a Christmas tree and laughed as the actors decorated her with tinsel.



Christmas Activities



All the children made a "melting snowman" biscuit.



Making Magic Reindeer food

The children were keen to make some magic reindeer food to sprinkle on their lawns to make sure Santa stops at their house. They had to follow a recipe, mixing the correct number of spoonful's of bird seed, sunflower seeds and oats with a spoonful of "magic sparkles" that the reindeer would be able to see as they flew through the sky. The sparkle was made from coloured sugar and a little cake decorating glitter, not craft glitter as this could kill some of the small birds in our gardens.



Decorating a special star for Hanukkah



Isobel dressed up to help re-tell the story of the Nativity after listening to the story "Little Owl and the Star"



Ben loved dressing up as Santa every day!



HAPPY HANUKKAH



Ben loved dressing up as Santa every day!



17th and 18th December

We finished our Christmas celebrations at the end of this term with Christmas parties for the children, playing traditional games like Musical Chairs and Pass the Parcel. The children tucked into their party food before joining in dancing again then sat and waited patiently for their gift from Santa.

We all hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and Santa brings you lots of nice things!

See you all in the New Year.



We hope you have enjoyed reading about what our children have enjoyed doing and learning about this half term and if you would like to tell us what your children have enjoyed doing we would be pleased to hear from you.

Thank you from all the staff at

Templegate Tiny Tots Pre-school