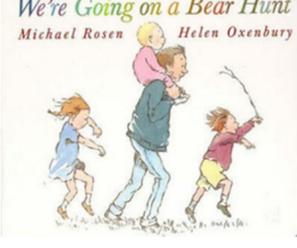


## Our sharing diary

4th January "There's a bear !"



Some of the children have returned after the Christmas holidays with an interest in playing "Bears". After playing chasing games and looking for bears in our bamboo forest most of the morning we decided we would follow this interest and chose to read the book "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" at story time.

This proved to be very popular and this story became our focus book.

The children also really enjoyed watching Michael Rosen telling the story and quickly joined in with the repeated refrains and sound effects.



11th January

### Going on a Bear Hunt activity

The children are still really interested in the Going on a Bear Hunt story.

Tori put a large piece of paper on the floor of the Art area and provided resources to make a large collage working through the sequence of the story. The children added resources for the grass, used paint combs for the water and printed muddy footprints using a "Wellie Boot" for the mud then we went outside to find sticks and leaves to make a forest.



After lunch we glued on the leaves and sticks to make the forest, then began creating our snow storm. Next week we are hoping to make a narrow gloomy cave !

When the collage was dry we created panels on the wall which the children used to retell the story.



This week we have also started our "Letter of the Week" and chose to start with "b" because of the interest in bears. Luke enjoyed using the iPad to trace out the letter shapes.

### 10th January Using tools and technology

Using tools and technology was part of our planning for this half term. We began by making calendars. We cut some pieces cellophane to put into a laminating sheet and fed it through the laminator. We added a calendar tab then used a hole punch to make holes to thread a tag through to hang the calendar up.



We also looked at how the colours of the cellophane changed as they overlapped on the light box. Mikey enjoyed matching the colours to those of the mini motors which he placed on top of the corresponding colour.

The children have been learning how to programme Bee Bot our programmable toy. Scarlett explored what happened when she pressed the buttons and discovered she could make Bee bot move forwards and backwards and change direction.



Myla used the laminator to make her calendar



Harry used the Whiteboard for his mark making.

### 13th January The Making of the Bear Cave

We were thinking about making a small cave this week but when Jack and Luke initiated this activity when they began working in the art area, the scale of the cave changed somewhat ! They decided they wanted to build a cave for a teddy bear using boxes. They surrounded the bear with boxes to make the shape of the cave, sticking them together with masking tape. They discussed between themselves where the chimney should go and the "table for his drink". "I have a plan" said Luke as they worked out the best way to add a roof. He began by placing a box on top, "This is going to make him warm" he added. Dilsha came to join them in the art area. "Here's a box" said Jack handing it to Dilsha so she could fix a box on too.

**"It's very wobbly" said Jack as he touched one of the boxes. "I know how we could make it stronger " I told them and explained about something called "Mod Rock".**

Dilsha took pieces of the Mod Rock material and placed them in a tray of water. "We have to wait until it goes soft and floppy" I explained. I showed her how to lay the pieces of material across the boxes. Dilsha quickly began covering the boxes with the mod rock. "I've never done this before" she told me as she smoothed the pieces in place.



It took several days to make the cave really strong, giving lots of children the opportunity to join in with this activity.

The children are looking forward to painting the cave when it is completely dry.



When Dilsha came in the next day she discovered that the Mod rock had set really hard. She put an apron on straight away and set to work helping to do the inside of the cave.



### 19th January Stay and Play session

We invited parents to join us today to stay and play with their children. Amongst the activities today was a sensory walk based on the "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" story. The children enjoyed walking through the water and over the tree bark but by far their favourite part was the squidgy jelly which represented the mud in the story.

The parents were also invited to work with their children to make a "Winter" picture for our display.



### 26th January Celebrating the Chinese New Year



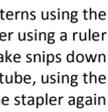
As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations we have decorated our nursery with hanging lanterns and wishes of good luck. On the Celebrations display there is a variety of books, pictures of a traditional Dragon dance, traditional Chinese food and chopsticks. It is the year of the rooster, to show this there is a picture of a rooster and the written word in English and Chinese writing.

Today we made Chinese lanterns with the children. They enjoyed decorating their lanterns using the pens. They drew lines down the paper using a ruler then used the scissors to cut or make snips down the lines. It was then turned into a tube, using the stapler to fasten. Then they used the stapler again to fasten on the handles. Very nice!

Making marks for the Chinese New Year



Kathy brought in a selection of Chinese musical instruments for the children to use and explore their different sounds. She brought drums, a zither and a gong, amongst others. We also used chopsticks as an instrument, tapping them together and playing along with the Chinese music.



Today it was the boys who were first to the table to make their lanterns !

### 26th January Hunting for treasure



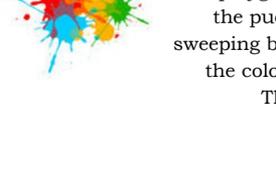
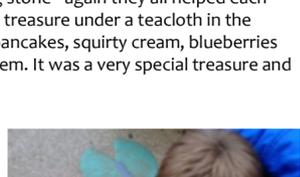
A few children have been very interested in treasure hunting, following clues hidden around Pre-school. Today Karen set up a small treasure hunt but the children had to answer a question before they could find the next clue. The questions related to numeracy problems such as, "What is one more than ten?" or "What is three plus three?". There were five different numeracy questions all relating to 'One more or one less' and small sums. The children all worked together, often counting in a group to find out the next number. Some of the clues were, "Look in the cupboard in the blue house?" or "Look under the purple stepping stone" again they all helped each other. At the end of the hunt the girls found the treasure under a tea cloth in the cabin. They looked surprised when they found pancakes, squirty cream, blueberries and chocolate sprinkles. "Tuck in" Karen told them. It was a very special treasure and worth hunting for. Everyone enjoyed this treat.

### 31st January Exploring colour can be fun!



Today we made good use of the puddles on the playground. I sprinkled powder paint into the puddles and gave the boys some small sweeping brushes, encouraging them to brush the colours together to see what happened. They brushed vigorously and enjoyed watching the colours as they mixed together and changed.

"I've made orange" said Oliver



### 31st January Raising Awareness

Today Isobel came in a very special jumper which says "My little sisters a Heart Warrior" on the front. She wears it to raise awareness for CHD.

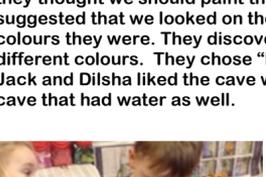
Isobel stands proudly so I can take her picture, "Amelia is at home now she is better" she says.

All week we sold raffle tickets to support the children's Heart Surgery Fund. Then on Friday we sold Buns, all the staff and children wore red to support this special children's charity. We raised a total of £90 overall thanks to everyone's support.



### 31st January Finishing the Bear Cave

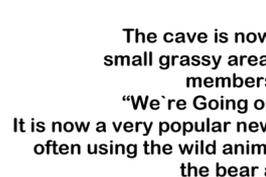
The cave is now finishing the painting. We asked the children what colour they thought we should paint the cave and their answer was "black". We suggested that we looked on the iPad for pictures of caves to see what colours they were. They discovered that the rocks could be several different colours. They chose "light grey and dark grey and some brown". Jack and Dilsha liked the cave with "all the green on top". They liked the cave that had water as well.



Ella and Joseph came into the art area to look at the cave now we had finished painting it. "Now we need to add some of these" I said showing them the plastic vegetation. "Trees" said Ella. I explained how we were going to fix them on with just Blu Tac at first and then I would fix them properly with something called a "Hot glue gun" and explained why that had to be done later. "Now you can choose where you want to put your trees". Ella and Joseph used small pieces of Blu Tac and chose to fix the trees on to the top of the cave.



The cave is now finished and it now has a waterfall, small grassy areas and snow, additions requested by members of staff so we could retell the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" using this bear cave. It is now a very popular new resource for lots of imaginary play often using the wild animals or even dinosaurs and of course the bear and small figures to re-tell the story.



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