

Our sharing diary

21st February 'Collective rewards'



Our Collective rewards scheme has been working really well, the children did well collecting 'busy bees' and 'helping hands' to earn their rewards and enjoyed their Technology days, baking and nature walks. They also seem to be enjoying the challenge of earning these rewards as well. This half term we have a bigger challenge for them. We would like to teach our children the value of the toys and resources they use and how to look after them, as today's society has a very much 'throw away attitude'. This half term we will be focusing on collecting coins to fill up a tube which is divided into 3 sections. When the children earn enough coins to get to the first mark they will be able to vote for which piece of new equipment we will get, a new computer game, a new wooden doll's house or a balance bike.

Get busy everyone!

6th March Holi Celebrations



This week we are celebrating the Hindu Spring festival of colour, Holi. Inside the children explore colour using a cornflour mixture then add a variety of powder paints to see how the colour changes. The gloopy mixture also changes in texture as they mix.

Outside the powder paints are splatted into a big builders tray and smaller painting trays and we make the most of the wet day. The children can use a variety of tools such as rollers, paint brushes, sweeping brushes and giant paint rollers to again explore mixing colour. Everyone enjoyed painting the playground and chairs and getting messy!



6th March Mother's Day activities



Today the children began making cards for their mums for Mother's Day. We asked the children to think about the colours they needed to use to paint the stamp to print flowers on their card.

Later each child planted some sunflower seeds to give to their mum as a Mother's day gift.



The Mums arrived on Friday for their 'afternoon tea' and a chance to stay and play with their child. Grandmas and Nanas were also invited if Mum couldn't come. We even had a few Dads who came in their place.



As we have invited the Mums for a special 'Stay and Play session' for Mother's Day we thought we should make them some flapjack for a treat.

Even though we have treated the Mums to a 'Cream Tea', we hope that they will have a look at our Healthy Eating Display!



Healthy Eating Display

Karen has been busy making a 'Healthy Eating' display which includes information about '100 Calorie snacks, portion sizes for children and the amount of salt and sugar in popular lunchtime snacks'. It also has some Change4Life ideas for healthy eating and photographs of some of our children eating healthy options. There are four books available for parents and children to access from a recent 'Henry Healthy Eating' course attended by staff.

12th March Our first target has been reached!



The children have been working really hard earning the coins to put in the tube and have been rewarded for their positive behaviour, working well together, helping each other or the teachers and continuing to help at tidy up time. Now we have reached the first mark so the children were asked to vote by placing a sticker against the toy of their choice. All the votes are now in and the winner was the 'balance bike'.



Some children help Tori to fix the bike together.

13th March Theatre Company production of 'Dogs don't do ballet'



It was brilliant and what a lovely experience for the children. Thanks so much for organising it. Jeanna Ilsley

Today we were lucky enough to have a visit from a theatre company called 'The Little Blue Monster Theatre Company' who performed a short production called 'Dogs don't do ballet'. Parents and Grandparents were also invited to watch the production. The children walked sensibly down the corridor and sat down in the school drama hall to watch the show. There was lots of interaction between the actors and the children. They also included the parents and staff who were watching, we all got wet when they squirted water at us! The children laughed and joined in answering questions and they enjoyed watching Karen who was invited to join in with a ballet lesson. Then they all stood up and practised their ballet moves as well.

We all had a really good time!



The production was brilliant. Absolutely loved watching Darcy enjoy it and join in with the dancing. Brilliant. Thank you. Kelly Bamforth-Smith

13th March What's inside the eggs?



10 white eggs were delivered today and we have begun talking to the children about what could be inside. They are all quite excited about what might come out of the eggs. Some props and pictures are displayed for ideas.

Finally after a few days of watching and waiting some chicks have begun to hatch out.



The chicks are growing very quickly and they seem to be just as interested in us, as we are in them.



All the children have had the opportunity to hold a chick if they want, some have been happy to sit in a large circle on the carpet and watch the chicks as they run and jump about, flapping and stretching their wings. The chicks this year are really lively!

16th March The 'Great Sunflower' race

The children are watching their sunflower seeds that they gave to their Mums, as they begin to grow at home.



We realised that we have no seeds growing here at Pre-school so to be able to compare their size Karen has planted each staff member a seed. The children will be watching and checking whose is the biggest when they've grown.

Good luck everyone!



19th March Secret Garden visit to act out the 'Bear Hunt'.



After lunch a few of the girls were tiptoeing round the room. "We're going a bear hunt" they sang as they went past. They continued reciting the story and acting out the parts of the story as they moved around Pre-school. Tori suggested they could use some props to create the different parts of the story and got out a box of material. She asked the girls which they could use for the river or the mud and very quickly there was a large group of children who were all keen to help. The children chose appropriate colours for all the different parts of the story then enjoyed the acting out the story and taking it in turns to be the bear.

It was really good fun and very boisterous!

So we decided to go on a "real bear hunt" and so we all got ready to go out.

A great time was had by all as we made our way through the swishy grass, splashed through the deep cold river, squelched our way through the mud and tripped through the forest.



We even had to make our way through the snow. We found the bear cave and so we quickly made our way back to the safety of Pre-School.

23rd March Observational painting

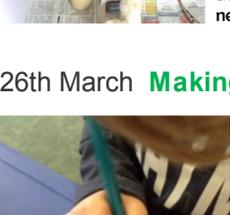


This week we have given the children an opportunity to look closely at the chicks and paint a picture of them, choosing the correct colours for their bodies, feet, eyes and beak. Two chicks were placed in a clear tank so the children could see them and there wasn't too much room for them to run about. Karen asked Celso and Tommy to look closely and think about what colours they needed to use for their picture.

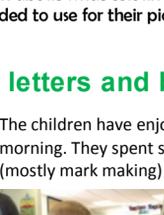


Tommy and Celso's paintings now are part of our display on the children's work

26th March Making letters and being a Postman



"I'm making a real letter" said James H as he carefully wrote on the paper.



The children have enjoyed making letters this morning. They spent some time writing letters (mostly mark making) and finding envelopes to fit the size of the letter. They would then post them in the post box. James B used the post bag to collect the letters and delivered them to the houses.

"There's a letter waiting for you at your house" said James B.



The following morning the children were still busy playing Post Offices. So following their interest of writing letters and posting envelopes, a Post Office was set up.



We decided to follow this on by writing a letter to 'Little Blue Monster Theatre Company' in the afternoon with pictures of the dog drawn by the children. We wrote the address on the envelope and added a stamp. We walked around the school field and down to the post box and then back to Tiny Tots. The children were excellent. They listened to the instructions given about staying on the path, holding hands and following the teachers. The children happily chatted throughout the walk. Well done everyone.

Monitor of the Day The Smartest Giant in Town.



We have now begun our very popular Monitor of the day. Each child will have the opportunity to be chosen as our special helper for the day. The children will be asked to help with little tasks through the day such as ringing the bell, helping at carpet time, wiping the tables and counting the bowls for snack. The children love the chance to help and have more responsibility. They will also have the opportunity to take our focus book home along with a special character.



Our focus book for Monitor of the Day is 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We have chosen this book as it is a really good example of how to help others, a skill that our children are becoming really good at.

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 share with 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

