

## Curriculum News

We have had a great start to the New Year, engaging in lots of fun learning experiences. Please see the areas of learning below for more information.

### *Physical Development*

Through Health & Self-Care Fortnight we have been learning about healthy lifestyles. Trying healthy foods with the Rainbow Fairy and doing exercise such as Yoga and football. The children are beginning to talk about the effects of exercise on their bodies.

*'I ran all the way and now I'm so tired, I can feel my heart'*

We have been developing our gross-motor skills through obstacle courses, action songs and Little Kickers football workshops.

Activities such as moulding playdough, threading, drawing and small construction kits have supported the development of our fine-motor skills.

### *Personal, Social and Emotional Development*

The children have been carrying out lots of experiments, giving them the opportunity to make predictions and explain their own ideas and knowledge. They have been able to test out different ideas and persevere with activities. For example using pipettes to pop balloons and exploring the magnets.

After the Christmas holidays the children were keen to talk about their own experiences and listen to others talk about theirs. The children have developed their turn taking skills through a range of activities such as maths games and using the science equipment.

We have had lots of visitors in school this half-term and the children have been friendly and welcoming. They have shown a positive attitude to new experiences.



### *Communication & Language and Literacy*

During Science Week the children were able to talk about what they could see happening in experiments such as making volcanoes and making electrical circuits. They were able to make predictions and retell what had happened. The children were provided with lots of opportunities to develop their questioning skills. *'Why is it that colour?' , 'Why does it light up?'*

We have been learning lots of subject specific language related to Science, people who help us and healthy living.

The children are very interested in information books and have especially enjoyed exploring books about science and different occupations. We are beginning to understand about contents pages and how they help us find the information we want. The children enjoy looking at books independently as well as with an adult so the Reading Area is always busy. Thank you to the parents who have come in to read with the children this half-term.

We have been exploring lots of mark making tools and have been supporting our writing through lots of big movements and large mark making using ribbon sticks, chinks and paint. The children are very interested in writing and have especially enjoyed filling in the appointment book for the hospital and Vet's Surgery.

### *Understanding the World*

Throughout Science Week the children were encouraged to make predictions and talk about what they observed. We explored different materials and forces such as magnetism, sinking and floating. Experiments such as flying Mentos and Dancing Raisins allowed them the opportunity to talk about what can happen when different substances are put together. Throughout their experiences the children were excited, interested Scientists who were keen to explore and make observations.

The children have been learning about different occupations and about people who help us. This has been supported by a range of visitors including Fire Fighters, a Doctor and a Dental Nurse. These experiences have been reflected in the children's imaginative play.

### *Mathematics*

We have been doing lots of counting. We use fun songs to help us develop our numerical order and have been exploring lots of sorting objects to develop our one to one correspondence. We have been learning that anything can be counted including us! Please see our number line in the garden.

Science experiments and resources gave us lots of opportunities to investigate weight and capacity.

We explored lots of different containers and substances. Water and sand play really supported this learning.

We continue to learn about 2D and 3D Shapes, exploring shapes in the environment and using lots of different construction kits.

We have been developing our use of positional language through action songs, Beebots, mazes and the doll's house.

Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.

~Fred Rogers



### *Expressive Arts and Design*

The children have been exploring lots of construction equipment, learning to build and balance. They have become especially good at using the large hollow blocks to create props to support their role play, for example building Fire Engines, Police Stations and their own obstacle courses..

During Health & Self-Care Fortnight the children experienced lots of role play giving them the chance to take on a variety of roles such as doctors, vets and dentists.

We have been exploring a range of instruments, the guitars are very popular!



Thank you to all the parents who have supported the children's learning this Half-Term through reading, playing maths games and coming in during Health & Self-Care Fortnight. Please look out for the sign-up sheets in the classroom after Half-Term for more opportunities.