

Newsletter: Friday 6th December 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

The week has raced by in the blink of an eye, and what a lot we have managed to fit in! From making our own paper plate penguins with one, two, three and even ten eyes, to tinkering with nuts and bolts, we haven't stopped!

Weddings on a Welly Walk Wednesday

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights this week was the opportunity to dress up in metres of white tulle and smart jackets and this led to a wedding in the church and ballroom dancing in the classroom. We had so much fun...

As always, we tried to encourage the children to take off their own shoes and put their wellies on... some are getting really good at this! Off we went holding hands with our friends and walking nicely to church, all the children now know the way and can direct us if we ask. Once we arrived at church the children enjoyed playing with some of the new toys, there was a car track that hadn't ever been played with before, which the children loved and there was also a new table with lots of new colouring resources for us to enjoy. To finish off, for the children that wanted to, there was the opportunity to have a photo at the front of the church where Reverend Julie usually stands to lead a service.



Reminders

- Is your child due to start school in September 2025? You can apply for your child's school place if they are born between the 1/9/2020 and the 31/08/2021. Remember to visit www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline to make your application and for more information.
- Please do remember that I welcome any suggestions that you may have with regards to improving our offer... For example, is there anything that you would like to see us doing which currently is not in place? How do the hours suit your needs? I am keen to ensure that we support our families with the best provision possible.
- Spare clothes: We are outside a lot and sometimes we get rather messy at preschool when using resources such as paint and water as part of our learning. Please can you ensure that your child/ren have plenty of warm, spare clothes in their bags as the weather gets even wetter and muddier, so that we can keep them clean and warm!

- Christmas Songs: With Christmas rapidly approaching, the staff would be grateful if parents would support us with teaching the children our Christmas songs. The more familiar that the children are with singing the words, the easier it is for them to also keep up with the signs! We will send copies home with the children, please do ask if you think we have missed you out! Thank you for your support with this.

Finally, you may be interested in following this link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/devon-family-hubs-monthly-newsletter-december-2024/> to access the Devon family hubs monthly newsletter for December 2024, which is packed full of interesting information including tips and resources for the festive period.

Snaps

Making Bird Feeders



Christmas Craft



What does next week look like?

Make It Monday



This is a beautiful picture book to help children understand the concept of big numbers. Pipkin the smallest penguin is always asking questions, but what he wants to know most of all is how big is a million? So, he sets off to find out, and along the way meets a hundred penguins, sees a thousand snowflakes and meets one new friend before being amazed to finally find out how big a million really is. A special fold-out poster at the end of the book shows Pipkin looking at the sky, which is printed with exactly one million stars. It is gorgeously illustrated by Serena Riglietti.

We will be introducing our story of the week and going penguin potty with a carousel of activities designed to support the children with their understanding of number, their development of cutting/sticking and much more!

Tinkering Tuesday

AM: We will be learning about the polar regions and making our own Arctic scene. We will be using these, along with the small world resources, to tell our own stories.

PM: On Tuesday afternoon we are going to walk to the church for a very special treat: We will be watching the children from Stockland CE Primary Academy performing their Christmas Nativity!

Welly Walk Wednesday

On Welly Walk Wednesday we will be finding muddy puddles and collecting natural resources to have a go at a bit of transient art.

Transient art is the use of loose parts or natural objects to make art that is 'moveable' and not permanent. It can be evolved and developed over time. It allows children to embrace the process rather than the product. As well as being able to continuously develop and grow their ideas, think of new ideas, reflect, and change their art piece. Both Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Shilling are famous nature artists, who make arrangements with natural materials (or what we might coin the phrase natural loose parts). They produce wonderful and beautifully made pieces out of nature and are highly inspirational. They recognise the importance of nature art and the benefit of taking the opportunity to connect with nature. Nature Connection is considered as the relationship that we have with nature, just like we might have a relationship with one another. Our connection with nature is important to our well-being. Joining in the process of transient art can also help to build children's confidence and resilience. It is believed that there is less pressure of getting it right or wrong, but also children are not doing anything permanent. Therefore, if they are not happy with something then they can easily undo it and start again, or simply rearrange items. As children explore transient art it can help support all areas of development and learning. From exploring positioning, making arrangements, patterns, symmetry, working cooperatively with others, exploring their own ideas, building on ideas, adapting /changing and communicating with others to share ideas and thoughts, talking about texture, shape, size, and differences in natural objects. Creating simple representations and giving meanings to them make learning opportunities literally endless.

Thinking Thursday

Cooking Christmas Treats!

Learning in all areas of the curriculum: Life is real, so we as educators need to provide real-life experiences. Cooking is a needed life skill. It is an authentic experience where children can gain a range of skills, specifically in Maths. It can help children understand traditions and really aids language and communication. When children can complete activities independently their confidence soars. Following a recipe also helps children to learn to read for a purpose and follow instructions. They can talk about their likes and dislikes and about healthy eating.

Fresh Air Friday

AM: Winter Wonderland Tuff Tray Stay & Play

PM: Fun in the woodland area with Kelly, Alice and Jemma! Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to complete our 'Follow The Star' (Nature walk to forage for natural resources, followed by a collaborative craft activity to make a star) this week; and instead made wreaths, so we will continue with these plans next week. (Please note that the crafting may be indoors or outdoors dependent on the weather).

Dates for the Diary

Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 12th December 2024.
Raising money for the children who need it most...
Should you wish, you can scan the QR to donate.

Toddler Group: Friday 13th December 2024, 9.00 – 11.30.

Christmas Song Time: Thursday 19th December 2024, 14.00 – 15.00.



Last day of term for Christmas: Friday 20th December 2024.

Inset Day: Monday 6th January 2025.

Pre-school Returns: Tuesday 7th January 2025.

February Half Term: 17th February 2025 - 21st February 2025.

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