



Curriculum News March 2021

We have had a very busy half term and had the opportunity to cover lots of exciting topics including life cycles, Dinosaurs and Spring.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This half term children have been busy exploring the effects of the changing seasons. They have enjoyed commenting on the garden and learning about growth and change over time.

The children have also had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in showing care and concern for living creatures, including the chicks. All children had the opportunity to hold the chicks and every child was fantastic at being gentle and caring.

Children have been continuing to work on their listening skills in gatherings, story times and in their play - with a special focus on listening to their friends. Children are continuing to use the phrase 'Stop it I don't like it' when they don't like an action and they are developing their skills in responding appropriately with support from the adults.



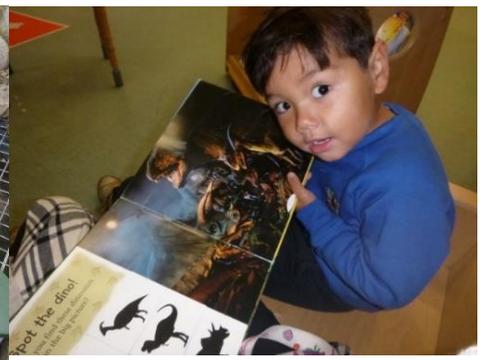
Physical Development

Children have had many opportunities to develop their pen grip for example through, using various mark making tools, using small tools such as scissors, and using small construction pieces such as Lego. In Book Fortnight all children were illustrators for their own stories. Each different story group used a range of mark making tools to create their illustrations.

We have been exploring different ways of moving, for example, becoming Dinosaurs by running, flying and stomping!

During Book Fortnight children were encouraged to treat books with care - something that all the children are now fantastic at.

We have had Lucas from Little Kickers start with us, who teaches the children listening and movement games as well as developing their ball skills. Children also develop their ability to negotiate space during these sessions.



Communication & Language and Literacy

This half term including Book Fortnight, where children were Authors, Illustrators and Publishers of their own story group book. The completed stories were fantastic and included brilliant adventures of Dinosaurs. Everyone enjoyed listening to the stories in a whole school gathering.

Children have also been making their own individual books, all of which contain beautiful mark making and writing - they enjoyed explaining what each of their marks meant. All of the children looked fantastic in their costumes for World Book Day and were able to say which character they had dressed up as. We had a 'catwalk' to show off the amazing costumes.

This half term has given the children lots of experiences to develop their subject specific language including, Book Fortnight, Chicks and Spring. Children love learning new vocabulary and use them in their play, for example..

"The chick uses the Egg tooth to hatch"

"The chicks are waiting for their mummy so they can hatch"

"The author writes the words and the illustrator writes the pictures"

"It's a blurb!"

Mathematics

Children have been developing their skills in making marks to represent numbers, especially during Book Fortnight where they were encouraged to write page numbers. They have continued to develop their interest in number by taking part in the children's number line which is now displayed in the garden - they have loved saying which number they are.

Children have been developing their skills in sequencing events, including the life cycles of Frogs and Chickens.



Understanding the World

This time of year is very exciting for children, as the weather begins to get better they have been exploring the garden by searching for mini beasts and waiting patiently by the pond to see if they can spot the frog. We have been talking about the change of seasons and what that means for growth and change.

With the arrival of the eggs and the appearance of the frog in the pond, we have been learning about life cycles through a range of activities including labelling, role play with costumes and tactile play, including a gloopy, 'gellee baff' tray filled with plastic tadpoles and frogs.

Children learnt about several festivals this half term including St Patrick's day, where we learnt the story of St Patrick and then enjoyed some Irish step dancing.

Nowruz, the Persian New Year, which the children explored with a traditional 's' table.

We are also learning about the Easter story in group times and gatherings.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children made several fantastic collages of Dinosaurs this half term, including a giant Dinosaur on display in the classroom. They used a range of resources including paint, glue, pens and sticking pieces. The children worked collaboratively together to create these displays.

Everyone has enjoyed a range of role play scenes including Dinosaurs, farms and spring animals. They have used costumes and small world toys to explore and extend their own understanding of these topics.