

Nursery Newsletter



27/01/2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A windy week this week meant opportunities for bubbles and balloon play in the outdoor classroom. For those children who are developing their ball catching skills, playing with balloons and bubbles not only helps with hand eye coordination but is also a great opportunity for turn taking and “waiting” skills.

Recent staff training has been based on “Emotional Intelligence” and the importance of self-regulation which is taught by parents and continued to be taught when children begin school. Within the “**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**” section of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum it states, **Children’s PSED is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through supported interaction with other children they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.**

A main focus on a daily basis in Nursery is based on the above statement and teaching children how to express their emotions and also to be able to read the emotions of their friends. Labelling how they are feeling whether it be happy, sad, angry, scared and so on and what they can do if they are feeling sad or angry is so important.

Whilst reading stories we often draw the children’s attention to how characters are feeling in the story and why. This week we read the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We looked at the images in the book focusing on the faces of the characters. Why were the three bears angry? Why was Goldilocks scared when she opened her eyes, whilst sleeping in Baby Bear’s bed? Talking about emotions and labelling them is vital especially for those children who struggle with meltdowns, turn taking and so on.

The children had the opportunity to paint self-portraits after mixing colours to create the correct skin colour, eye colour and hair colour. We talked about who has long/short hair? Straight/wavy/curly hair? (This activity will continue next week.) Within the **Expressive Arts and Design** area of the curriculum, **draw with increasing complexity and detail such as representing a face with a circle and including details.** Children are also encouraged to use the large interactive screen for mark making and drawing on a large scale which helps to develop gross motor skills, moving the shoulder and arm in big movements ultimately in time helping to strengthen the muscles in the wrist and then fingers ready for the fine motor skills needed in writing.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Mrs Riley
Nursery Teacher
EYFS Lead