



Newsletter Friday 13th October 2023

Dear Parent and carers,

It's been an exciting week learning all about Space. The children have been especially curious asking lots of interesting questions. Space is one of my favourite topics, as children are full of awe and wonder about our solar system, plus the enjoyment of playing with space rockets and aliens! In our treasure trove of the back storeroom, we found so many wonderful resources for children to role play a space station and explore our solar system in a shiny space suit. We started the week with a den set up with torches, the children enjoyed it so much, that we made different variations of a den all week. It was such a novelty to write under the tables too. We stuck paper to the underside of the tables, so children lay on their backs to draw. At this stage in early writing, it's about finding exciting ways to get children to make marks and build those all-important fine motor skills. When children are ready, then will start forming letters, but we don't want to skip the early stages as their hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders and core strength won't be ready.

Carpet Time

Every day at 11:55am we stop for carpet time. We have 3 groups, one for the younger children, one for the older and one is Spanish. The groups are quite flexible as we learn which children are ready for sitting and focusing for longer periods of time. Therefore, your child may be 3 years old, but attend the younger carpet time, as the activities are more suitable to where they are currently at with their concentration skills. We have noticed a huge improvement already in the children's ability to sit and listen – but there is someway to go to be school ready!

Crafts

When planning the craft activities, we carefully consider the process, not the end result. The objective is for children to explore and discover for themselves. The less we do, the more they do! Therefore, don't expect your children to bring home a perfect piece of art, that looks like everyone else's and has been massively scaffolded by an adult. Instead, they may bring home nothing, as they were just exploring and having fun, or they will bring something home that shows they had fun printing, rolling, mixing, sticking. Art activities support self-esteem, gross motor skills, focus, critical thinking, independence and an opportunity to stimulate the senses. Today, the children explored rolling conkers down a half pipe covered in paint. They got to see the different patterns it made, how colours mixed, how some conkers roll faster than others, waiting patiently for their turn and so much more!



Next week will be learning about Harvest Festival. On Thursday, Sharon will be coming back to talk to the children about the importance of helping others in your community.

Please can you bring in food donations through the week. Then Sharon will take them on **Thursday** to a free 'shop' they set up for families in need.

October is Black History Month

On Thursday we were visited by Sharon, who runs Tiny Crafters in the Church. She spoke to the older children about Black History Month. The children learnt about how we are the same and different, sang Head Shoulders Knees and Toes and read the story Elmer.

In the afternoon, we started some craft activities that explored different skin tones by mixing paint and making handprints. The handprints are going to be used to make butterflies. What a lovely way to celebrate Black History Month in a way younger children can enjoy.

Important Dates

HALF TERM - Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October

Monday 30 th October	2 nd Half of Autumn Term
Wk beg Monday 27 th November	Parent Consultations
Friday 17th November	Children In Need (Wear Spots and Stripes)
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Party (Children only)
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Event (Parents invited)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

