



December 2023 Nursery Newsletter

Message from Mrs Heasman



Dear Parent/Carer

Our children are excitedly preparing for Christmas. They can't wait to perform at our Nativity and to sell their crafts at the Christmas Coffee Morning! We hope that you are able to come along to both events to share the festive cheer with our children!

Our first STEM day of the year was very successful with our nursery children learning about habitats, biodiversity and the interdependence of living things. They were able to explore their learning in the nursery and with children from Primary 1!

The nursery has been very busy playing in the outdoors. investigating the cold weather and its effects on our outdoor space. The children love being outdoors and all of them will have the opportunity to participate in learning about nature as the year progresses. Some of our pre-school children have taken part in a planned experience called Nature Adventures which involved them learning outdoor skills and was showcased with their families on the last session. Those children who haven't yet taken part will do so in the New Year.

The nursery staff send their good wishes to all of our families for a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Regards

Angela

Being me





This month our children have been developing their creativity and imagination through play and in their learning journey. Each child is encouraged to follow their own interests and lead their own learning. We have been busy making and creating both indoors and outdoors. Outdoors we have continued to take care of our garden, through leaf collecting, developing our bird station, exploring and looking for mini beasts and problem solving in water play. We have also been learning to use tools in the digging area and mud kitchen.

Our block play has continued to develop with our children now creating a range of structures and adding different aspects to their creations with loose parts and small world animals. We have had a 'dinosaur hotel', 'animal house' and lots of other amazing structures.

In the creative station we have been using boxes and loose parts to create and make objects. Some children have made a house or bed for their teddies, others have made phones and some made bird houses. We encourage children to think and problem solve when making and creating.

Please click on the photos below to see our creative experiences.











Songs and Rhymes of the month



One of the books we have been reading is **Stick Man** by Julia Donaldson. In the story Stick Man leaves the family tree and sets out on an adventure across the seasons in hope of being back in time for Christmas.

Our other story we have been listening to is **The Gingerbread man** by Nick Page and Clare Fennell. In the story of the Gingerbread man we learn about his adventures and trying to not to get caught. This story helps children to develop an awareness of rhyming words.

Please ask your child:

Which story did you like or dislike?

Can you remember any of the characters?

Can you remember what happened in the story?

Our songs we have been learning are The Bear Went Over The Mountain and 5 Little Monkeys.

The rhyme we have been learning is Hey Diddle Diddle.

LIT0-01c I enjoy exploring and choosing stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to and can share my likes and dislikes.



1 - Hey Diddle Diddle

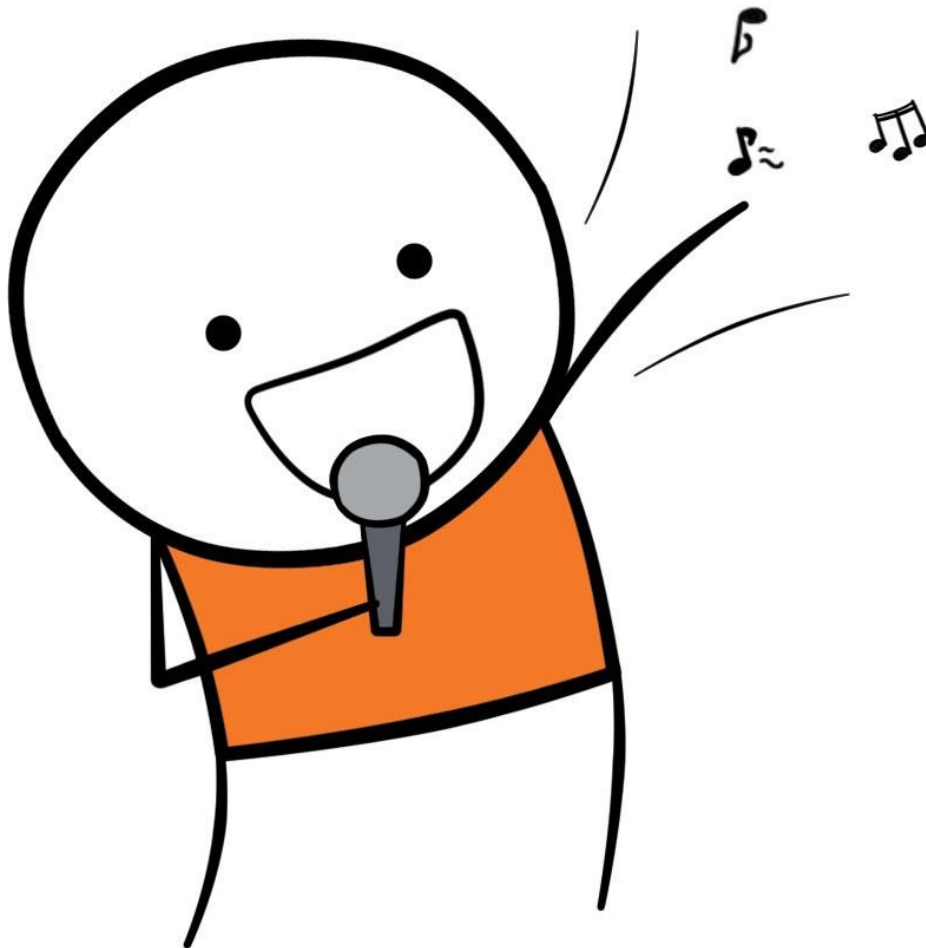


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Tiny Happy People



Please click on this link to access the [Tiny Little People](#) website.

Here you will find ways to support your child's communication and development and there are lots of great videos with nursery rhymes and songs. Happy singing!

Wellbeing: Achieving



Each month the school and nursery will focus on a SHANARRI wellbeing indicator. This month we are focusing on the wellbeing indicator of Achieving.

Please click on the photos below to see how we achieve in nursery.

Can you please share your child's achievements out of nursery on Learning Journals. We can then print the photo and your child can share their achievement with their friends.









Our Rights: We have the right to be heard



As we explore our rights, we are learning that we all have rights. This month we are focusing on Article 12, the right to be heard, listened to and give your opinion. In nursery we consult with our children in different ways.

Each month we chose a an area to consult with our children about using mind maps. We asked them about what they like or dislike about outdoors, what their favourite thing in nursery is and what they would like to change.

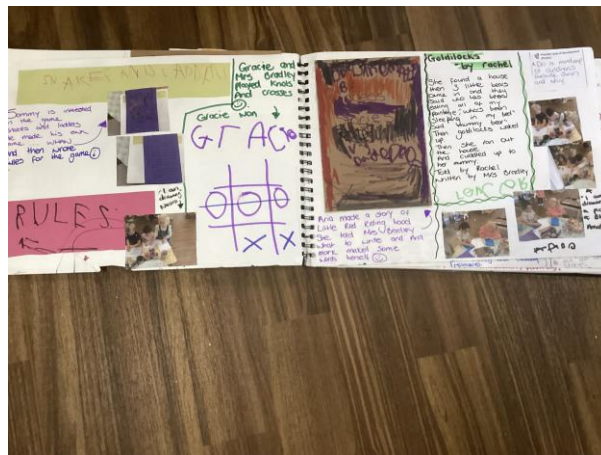
Our children also help to order for snack, choose their own lunch and decide what toys and resources they would like to have in our areas.

Our children choose where and with what they want to play with, they make choices about their learning, follow their own interests and lead their own learning.

We use floor books, which are child initiated and support child led learning. The floor books show how the children take a key role in leading their learning and how we encourage and develop this.

HWB 0-09a As I explore the rights to which I and others are entitled, I am able to exercise these rights appropriately and accept the responsibilities that go with them. I show respect for the rights of others.

[illegible]



Skill of the Month: Patterns



The skill we have been focusing on is patterns.

As we know patterns are all around us, in the environment and nature. We are developing children's knowledge of what a pattern is, where have they seen a pattern and what kind of patterns they know. We talk about what shapes or colours can they see and if they can identify the sequence of the pattern. We then encourage our children to copy and create patterns using a range of materials.

I have spotted and explored patterns in my own and the wider environment and can copy and continue these and create my own patterns. MTH0-013a













Froebel and Clay

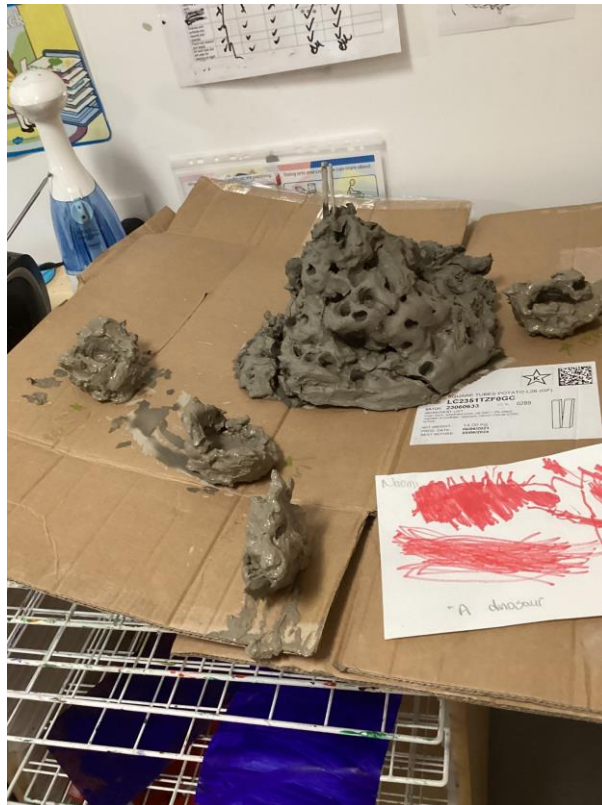


Clay is a natural material and Froebel believed it is important for children to access a wide range of media such as sand and clay. When exploring with clay children are developing their problem solving skills, fine motor skills and have an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas.

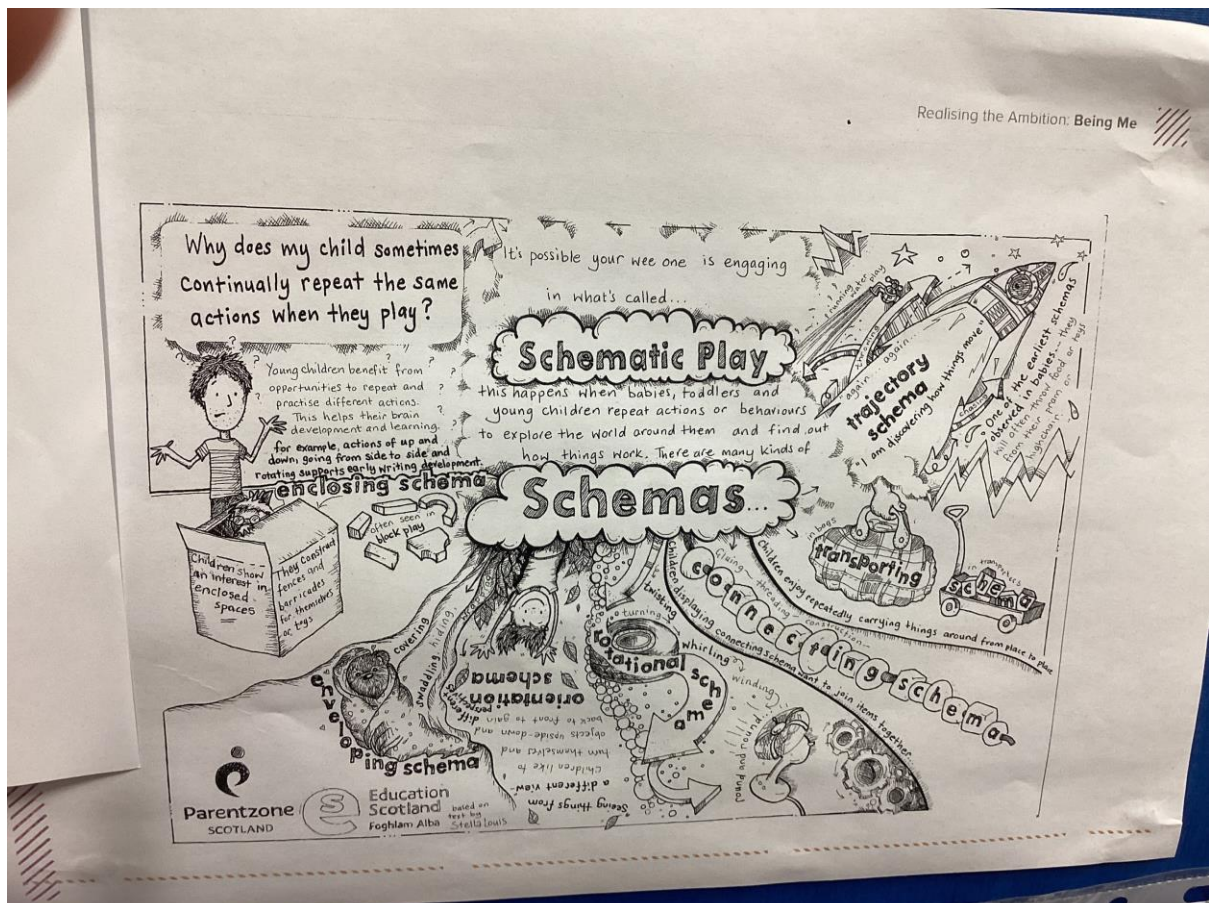
EXA 0-02a I have the freedom to discover and choose ways to create images and objects using a variety of materials.







Schemas: Transporting



When children repeat patterns of behaviour and actions this is known as [schematic play](#). There are different types of schemas that have been identified and some children will often display them in play whilst others may not be so obvious. Children will repeat these behaviours and action to make sense of the world and to find out how things work.

The schema we will look at this month is **Transporting**. When a child is displaying the schema of transporting they will move objects from one place to another. They may carry them in their hands, pockets or in containers. Children will want to move dinosaurs, cars etc into the sand or water.

Experiences to support this schema are:

- Outdoor or indoor pulling toys
- Small world construction
- Role play- baskets, trolley, prams, bags etc
- Journey sticks outdoors
- Writing and posting letters
- Making maps

Please [click here](#) to access more information on schemas.

Please click through the photos to see how we develop this schema in nursery.



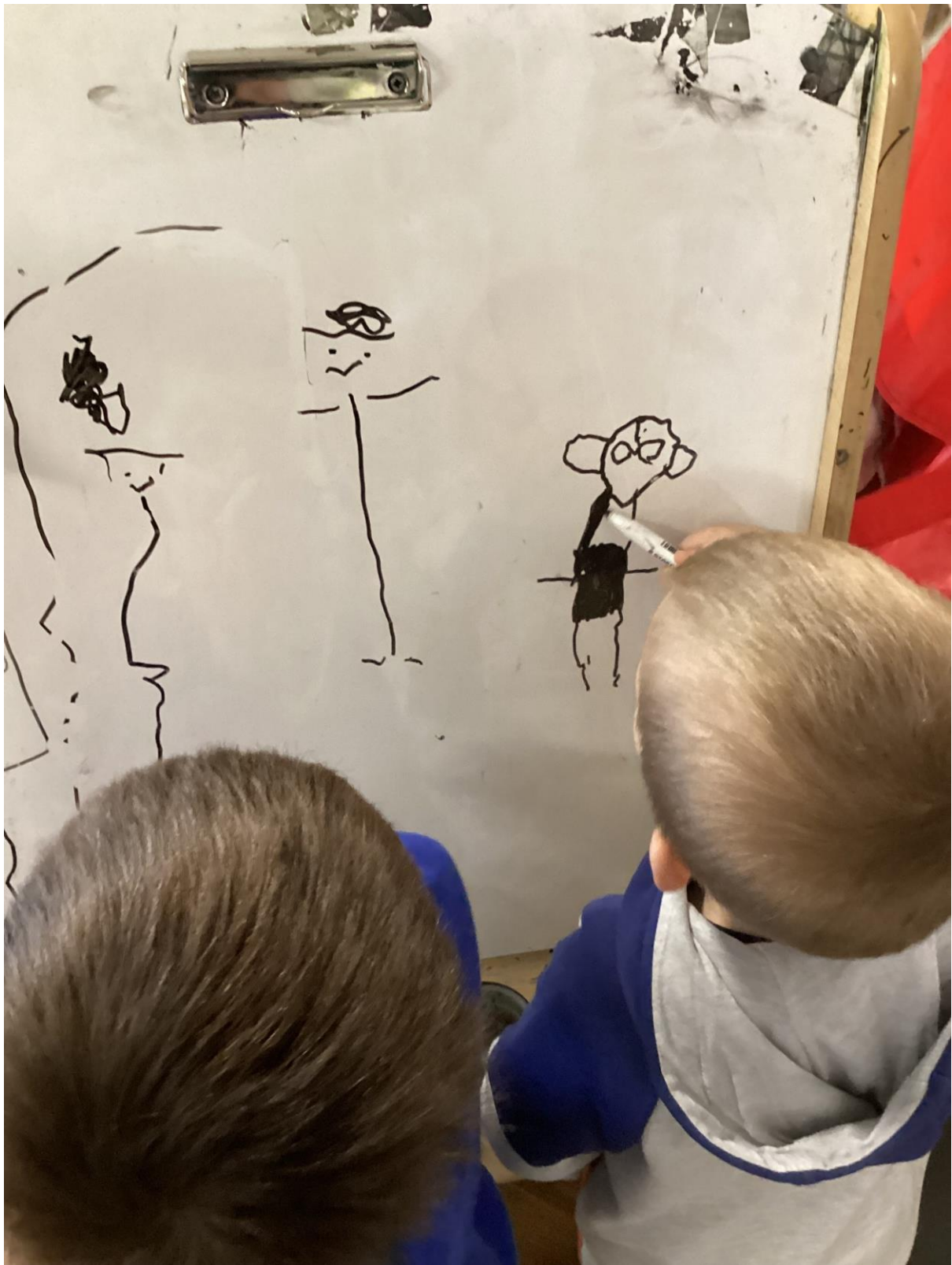








Literacy: Mark Making



Our children have been developing their mark making skills. Children have lots of opportunities in nursery to develop this through using, chalk, pens, crayons and paint, even sand, and mud in their play. Having some of these resources available at home will encourage your child to mark make at home too. click on [this link](#) to access an early years pre writing pack.

Stages of early writing are:

Scribble writing- the child has noticed that people write and they try and copy the writing. They know that this looks different from drawings.

Pretend writing - the child is becoming more aware of what writing looks like and notices that there are spaces between words.

Letter-like scribbles - the child is beginning to realise that writing is made up of individual symbols

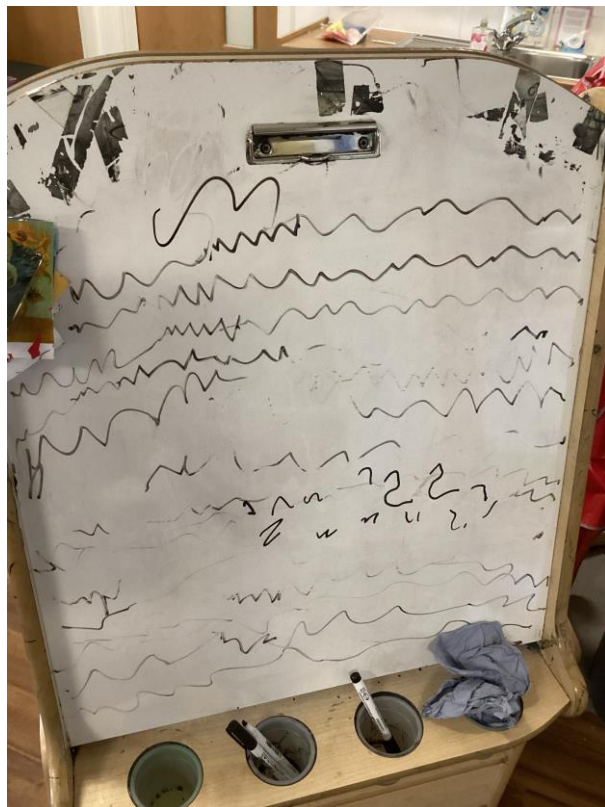
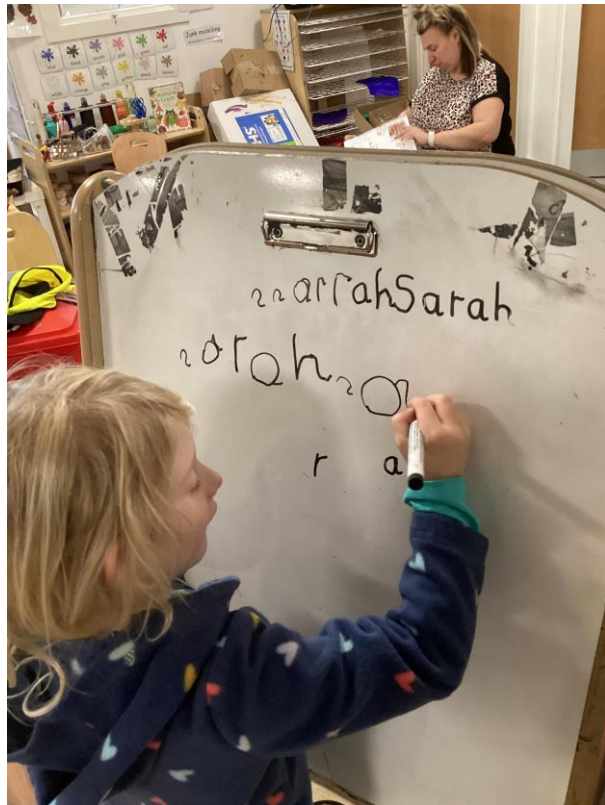
Letter-like scribble with some real letters- the child will include some letters that have been copied from print, often the first letter of their name.

Copying letters - the child shows an interest in copying letters from environmental print. Most children at this stage enjoy trying to write their own name. At this stage they can be encouraged to write signs etc.

It is important to note not all children go through every stage of early writing and some children never scribble write.

(TWCAWW, 2021)







STEM day: Biodiversity and Interdependence Living Things.



Each term we have a STEM day that the school and nursery take part in. Our STEM day this term focused on Biodiversity and interdependence Living Things.

Please click on the photos below to see the experiences along with Primary 1 that our children took part in.

SCN 0-01a I have observed living things over time and am becoming aware of how they depend on each other.

SCN 0-03a I have helped to grow plants and can name their basic parts. I can talk about how they grow and what I need to do to look after them.







Learning Journals



We use Learning Journals to share your child's learning and development. We do this through significant observations and stories, which are linked to the curriculum. We aim to share at least one observation and one story with you each week, which will also have suggestions on how you can support this learning at home too.

We would love for you to share your child's learning with us on Learning Journals. Please click the link below if you need any information on how to do this.

<https://youtu.be/JZhyAXa7YBQ>

If you are having any difficulty with an aspect of the Learning Journals, then please speak to your child's key person, Mrs McNulty or email us and we will be happy to help.

Other ways we share learning is through our monthly Sway newsletter, key person feedback at pick up time, daily Twitter posts and each child will have an individual target in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.

If you would like any information or further communication then please arrange this with your child's key person or email us at GW20nurserycanberraps@glow.sch.uk

Twitter



We add to our Twitter page daily. Our Tweets give a small snap shot of some of the experiences your child can take part in and can give you an opportunity to talk to your child about the nursery day.

Please follow us @CanberraNursery

Fit in 5!



This week we are at Canberra Dance Club. Please watch the video below to see how many of the dance moves you can do in 5!

If you do this at home, can you please share it on your Learning Journals.

HWB 0-22a I am developing my movement skills through practice and energetic play.



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Our Tree

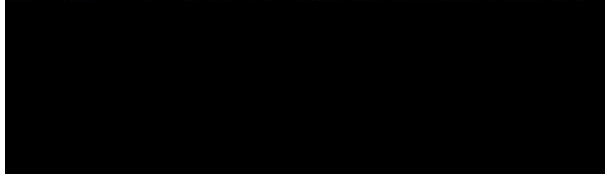


To support our connection with nature each group has chosen a tree in the school grounds as their tree. We will learn all about this tree, who lives there, take photos, find out how old it is and what it will look like in different seasons. We will also learn about how we can care and protect our tree and why they are important to the environment.

We will continue to share out tree journey with you.







Learning together: Journey Stick



Journey sticks are a great way of recording a journey and remembering it later on. You can personalise your stick with special decorations, and add to it each time you go on a walk. Or, you could have a new stick for each journey you go on. Once you've finished you can use your stick as a prop to help you tell stories about your journey and ask your family and friends to do the same.

What you need:

- A stick
- Paint (optional)
- String
- Sellotape

Find a stick and wrap Sellotape around it. When on your walk find things to stick on it like petals, leaves or grass.

Please share what you find on your child's Learning Journal.

Parent Council



Canberra Parent Council is made up of family members who represent the body of the school. If you would like to be involved or become a member you can contact them through their Twitter page by direct message.

Twitter Page: @CanberraPCin EK or contact the nursery or school and we can put you in touch.

Meeting dates:

18.9.23	Drop-in (6.30-7.00pm) and AGM (7.00-8.00pm)
9.10.23	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
20.11.23	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
8.12.23	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
15.1.24	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
26.2.24	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
29.4.24	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
20.5.24	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
8.6.24	Summer Fair
10.6.24	Meeting 6.30-8.00pm

We will give you updates and information from the Parent Council.

Useful Websites

Parent Club Scotland: <https://www.parentclub.scot/>

Speech and Language Lanarkshire: <https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-speech-and-language-therapy-service/>

Learning Journal Parent Support: <https://learningjournals.co.uk/resources/parent-guide/>

Parentzone Scotland: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

ChildSmile: <https://www.child-smile.org.uk/parents-and-carers/index.aspx>

Occupational Therapy, Building Independence for young people:
<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/services/occupational-therapy/children-and-young-people/early-years/>

NHS Lanarkshire Children & Young People, Occupational Therapy:

Advice Line - Tuesday mornings 9.30 - 11.30am on 01698 753707

Twitter - @OccupationalTh4

Please click on the link below for advice on child development:

Developmental Advice for 3-4 Year olds:

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=10036&ind=1589358950467>

Developmental Advice for 4-5 year olds:

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=10036&ind=1589358954731>

Start & Finish Times



3 - We have a soft start and finish times to support our children to have a smooth transition to nursery.

*In the morning our start time is **9:00-9:15am***

*In the afternoon our pick up times are **2:45-3:00pm***

Dates for Your Diary



November:

Parent/Child Consultations 15th

In-service day- 13th

Stay and Play week beginning 27th(day and times have been emailed out)

December:

Coffee morning- 8th(nursery sing songs)

Nativity 11th 10:00am and 14th 1:30pm (Primary 3 nativity, nursery sing songs)

Christmas Party- 21st(am)

Nursery closes 22nd at 2:30pm

January:

Nursery opens Monday 8th

February:

February break Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th

In-service day Wednesday 14th

Sponsored.... (tbc)

March:

Parent Consultations 7th (times will be sent out on Learning Journals nearer the date)

World book day 7th

Stay and Play week, 18th(times tbc)

Spring/Easter Break, nursery closes 2:30pm on Thursday 28th and reopens Monday 15th of

April**May:**

In-service day 2nd

May day 6th

Sports day 23rd

Local holiday 24th and 27th

June:

End of term celebration 20th

Party 21st (am)

Summer Break Nursery closes Wednesday 26th June

Please click on this link to view [School Holidays](#)

** Please note others dates will be added each month.

Contact Us



4 - Please get in touch on the nursery email address at gw20nurserycanberraps@glow.sch.uk or by calling the school office on 01355 224362 if you have any questions or concerns.