



Kindergarten Newsletter

December 2023



Dear Families,

This term is always so special and very busy and the children have done so well! They have all been very enthusiastic learners during our theme of 'The Dark'. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

The children put on an amazing performance of 'Santa's little elves' on Thursday. They have worked so hard, learning all of the songs and actions, and we are all very proud of them!



Mobile Phones



In line with our safeguarding policy mobile phones are not permitted to be used within the Kindergarten setting.

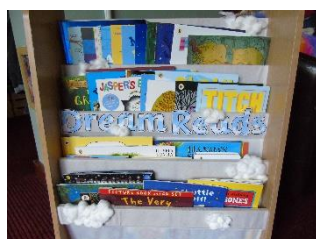
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Medication

If your child requires medication please fill out the appropriate forms and we will administer it for you. Please can you not leave medication in your child's bag.

Dream Reads

Thank you for all of the positive feedback after the launch of our Dream Reads. It is lovely to see the children so excited about coming in each day and selecting a new book. Look out for some new books linked to our theme of the cold next term!



Our focus for next term

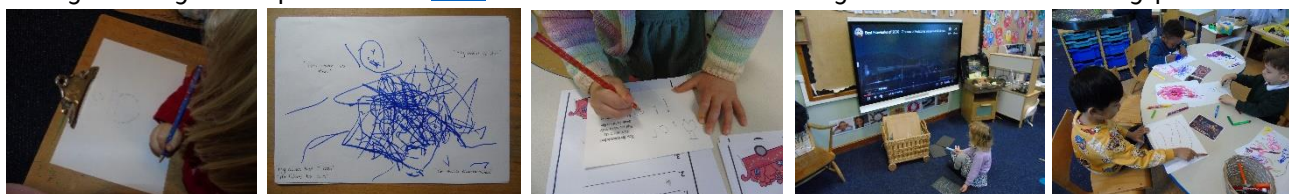
The theme for next term will be '**The cold**'. This will allow us to look at a variety of themes, including looking at cold environments in our world and the people and animals that live there. We will do some experiments linked to freezing and melting and looking after our local wildlife by making bird feeders etc. We will also be following the children's interests and develop learning opportunities and activities based on these interests and identified next steps for learning.

Key area updates

Reading and developing a love of books It has been lovely to watch the child engage with books so enthusiastically, whether it has been in the story suitcase or with the dream reads. Some children have recently started reading to each other which has been lovely to watch. The children have enjoyed the challenge of looking for books linked to our theme of the dark. This allowed us to talk about the different types of books in the library e.g. fiction and non-fiction. We had a 'Stickman' adventure day which allowed us to explore the story and read clues left by Stickman and helped him get back to the family tree. Buddy the Elf came to visit us during advent and delivered a Bookvent for us and the children have been very excited to unwrap a new book each day and listen to the story. We have also relaunched our online bedtime stories this term (click [here](#) to see these) which have proved very popular, thank you for your kind feedback.



Phonics and Mark making The children have been very busy mark making in recent weeks by writing their Christmas cards and letters to Santa with our magic Christmas pencils. During our Diwali celebrations they worked hard at drawing their Rangoli patterns and during our focus on Space they created fantastic aliens. We always ensure there are plenty of opportunities and resources for the children to use their imaginations and independently mark make. Our phonics focus has been to hear the initial sound in words and we have been using resources from the teeny reading seeds please click [here](#) to view the activities that your child will be taking part in.



Maths The children have been continuing their focus on number recognition and have shown a particular interest in colouring by numbers. We are seeing the children become more confident in their number recognition through this activity. We have also started thinking about the value of a number through activities such as placing one bauble in the tray with a one on it and two baubles in the tray with a two on it etc. During road safety week, the children used the push down cars to explore which cars had travelled the shortest and longest distance. Whilst celebrating Diwali, we were able to explore shapes found within the Rangoli patterns.



We have also been scientists, artists, builders, bakers and forest learning explorers this term.



This term's focus of 'The dark' has allowed us to explore lots of different topics such as fireworks, remembrance and road safety week. We have also been thinking about how to keep ourselves safe when we are near roads. We also looked at nocturnal animals and talked what the word 'nocturnal' means. The children enjoyed our time investigating space and stars and they are very proud of their space rocket!! We also thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Diwali with Mrs Manocha. Christmas has been a big focus towards the end of this term and the children have loved all of the learning activities we have planned, it is always a very special time of year!!

Here are some quotes from our children...



We made a home for a fox to hide from the fireworks!

We liked the space kitchen, we made space food!



I liked painting fireworks !



We liked dancing to the happy Diwali song!

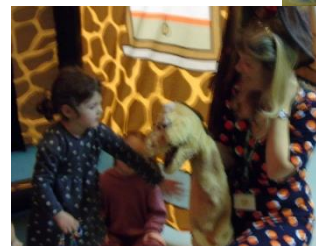


I liked finding the dark in books!

I found space rocks!



I liked looking for Buddy the elf!



I liked meeting Harold the giraffe!



We liked making moon prints!

We liked making planets!



I'm going to the moon!



Here is an alien!