Squirrels Class Half-term Round-up

The Squirrels have settled beautifully into their new classroom and are now confident with daily routines. They especially enjoy lunchtime and have transitioned wonderfully into whole school life.

This term, we created our Class Charter and discussed the importance of being a class member and the special role each child plays in our classroom community. We have focused on the **right to be healthy (Article 24)** — learning about using the toilet independently, washing hands, exercising, sleeping well, and eating nutritious food.

We joined the whole school for a fruit hunt and even made a delicious apple crumble together! The children were also excited to share what makes them unique.

Creating our self-portraits was another highlight — the children observed their special features carefully, noticing their eye colour, hair style, and school uniform details. We have also been talking about what each child enjoys, who is in their family, and how everyone is different and special. It has been an empowering journey, and every child knows they are important in Squirrels Class.

We have been learning to recognise different emotions using our Zones of Regulation board. This helps the children choose ways to manage their feelings using our calming toolkit. They have thrived in continuous provision, using our Golden Rules to share, help each other, and respect the classroom resources.

Developing fine motor skills has been another big focus this term. The children have explored fun and creative ways to build upper body strength and finger dexterity through autumn crafts that require great concentration and control. They are all working hard on writing their names and practising their curly caterpillar letters using Letter-Join.

Outdoors, the children love experimenting with guttering, building ramps, and racing Hot Wheels cars. The conkers have been a huge hit this season, sparking number fun as the Squirrels practised counting, 1:1 correspondence and comparing quantities. Two big highlights of the term were our first PE lessons in the hall and joining the whole school for Friday celebration assemblies**.**

In Maths, the children have been counting carefully, recognising and printing numerals, and matching quantities to numbers. They have used resources such as number lines to find the next number in a sequence and enjoyed hands-on activities like pegging ghosts, matching sticks to numeral pots, and tweezering the right number of pompoms.

In Literacy, we learned the story of *The Little Red Hen*, which the children proudly performed during Welcome in Wednesday. They have enjoyed lots of mark-making both indoors and outdoors, bravely labelling their drawings of the story's characters. Inspired by the story, the children decided to make bread—reading the recipe, measuring ingredients, counting spoonfuls, and kneading the dough. We even linked it to science by exploring how dough rises and noticing the bubbles after it had risen. The children loved using lines from the story as they worked - what fun and fantastic learning!

As we move into autumn celebrations, we've begun talking about Halloween and the Spooky Disco. We read *Room on the Broom* as our "hook book," which inspired the children to create their own potions in the mud kitchen. Our magical ingredients included conkers, pine cones, twigs, leaves, flowers, sunflower seeds, coffee beans (for our senses!), and, of course, plenty of mud!

The children have already learned so much this term. Well done, Squirrels! You are all doing wonderfully and working so hard. Have a spooktacular half-term break!

- Please check your child's book bag for letters and items that may no longer be needed.
- Please read your Little Wandle book at least three times a week — books are changed on Wednesdays.