Squirrels Class

Wow, we've had an exciting term. Our topic has had all the children buzzing with excitement. We started the term sharing holiday news, going over the golden rules and revisiting our class charter and the all-important rights of the child.

Then we had our superhero day which was a huge success! We received a letter from the Evil Joker to say he had kidnapped Squirrel!! The children had to complete a tricky obstacle course to save poor squirrel. The superheroes worked in teams of two to support each other and encourage each other to use balance, agility and speed to complete the course and save the day. We have also been using tweezers in another activity to save the superheroes. The children were asked to save as many superheroes as possible, count the amount and record their saves. In the classroom, we have been unlocking superheroes by finding the matching numeral, counting and adding superheroes.

In Maths, we've focused on comparing quantities, in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than, or the same as another quantity using a voting system on one of our boards. The children have been using a tens frame to support their understanding of numbers. They are becoming familiar with the symbols related to adding and taking away. The children are becoming familiar with the numbers that make 10. They have also become quite confident at using a number line for jumping on and back.

In SCARF, they have been learning how to keep themselves safe at home and at school. We have been focusing on the right to be safe (article 19), and we know the people who keep us safe in school and in our community.

We had an exciting visit from Sergeant Ward, who showed us his police car. Everyone had a go in the driving seat, and he talked to us about his role in the community and how a policeman or woman's job is to keep everyone safe, and not always catching baddies. The children were thrilled to see me being arrested and handcuffed. We followed this up with lots of role-play and discussion about the people who keep us safe in school, in the outdoor classroom and in the community, like doctors and dentists, nurses, and traffic wardens.

In Science, we had an investigation to explore. Elsa had written us a letter explaining she had frozen all the super-heroes by accident! The children were quick to come up with solutions for how to save the superheroes. They made their predictions and tried salt, sand and were most excited to get their hands on the hammers to break them free. They explored scientific language and made good observations. They found that the hammer was the most effective way to free the super heroes, but not the safest for the unlucky super heroes who were frozen. With the combination of hammer and salt they were luckily rescued successfully!

In PE, the children have been learning ball games with Miss Haynes on Thursday and enjoyed throwing, catching and receiving.

The children have enjoyed the collection of Supertato books and in our daily vote these have become very popular. The children have designed and made their Supertato to save the vegetables from the evil frozen pea. After designing and making their potatoes, they have been receiving feedback from their peers in Otters on how they can improve. The children were observant and kind with their comments and gave helpful hints that helped one another refine and develop their ideas. Lovely teamwork.

In our letters and sounds area, the children were challenged to read words with our new sounds and tricky words. We have been practising the tricky words and playing lots of games within the continuous provision. A new favourite is using emergency services vehicles to find tricky digraphs and trigraphs. The Squirrels have loved writing speech bubbles from their favourite hero, predictions in their science, and a superhero comic strip. The writing has been endless. There has been a huge improvement in letter formation and joining, finger spaces are being used and everyone is being a 'have-a-go hero' this term. In other exciting news, Ted has arrived and is receiving lots of lovely letters from the children. He gets to choose someone he would like to go home with, usually choosing someone who has been Ready Respectful and Safe during the week. He's already had three lovely weekends away!

Next half term we will have "**Welcome in Wednesday"** on the 12th March. We are looking for seeds to grow, ideally fruit, veg and flowers that will flourish before or in July, so Squirrels can enjoy their hard work.

Finally, It has been a fabulous half-term. The children have been full of enthusiasm and imagination. We can't wait to start our new topic after half term. Have a lovely half-term break.