Squirrels Class half-termly round up





The Squirrels have settled in well to their new classroom and are used to routines, enjoying lunchtime and have transitioned nicely to whole school life. This term we have made our class charter and talked about the importance of being a class member and their role within the class. We have focussed on the right to be healthy (article 24), using the toilet, washing hands, exercising, sleeping and eating well. We enjoyed joining the whole school on the fruit hunt, and made a delicious apple crumble. The children were excited to share what is unique about themselves and this term have decorated a shoe box which they took home and filled with items from their home to share with the class. All the children spoke well. I'm so proud of their ability to sit quietly and allow each other their special moment in the spotlight. They have asked thoughtful questions and have waited so patiently for their turn. They have also made their self- portrait, looking carefully at their special features, the colour of their eyes, the style of their hair and even what uniform they were wearing. We have talked about things that each child enjoys, who's in their family and that everyone is different. It's been very empowering. Every child knows they are special and important in Squirrels class.



The children are beginning to recognise different emotions using our Zones of Regulation board. The board helps them to choose ways to regulate their emotions using our tool kit choices. They have been thriving in the continuous provision and using the golden rules to support their play by sharing, helping each other and showing respect to the resources.



One of the most important activities we have been taking part in is developing fine motor skills, where the children are finding new ways to exercise their upper body strength and dexterity in their fingers. We have been focussed on fine motor activities and the children have engaged in autumn crafts, which take a lot of skill and finger strength. They are all trying to write their name and using Letter-Join, they are practising their curly caterpillar letters.



The children love being outside, working with the guttering and finding new ways to create ramps and exciting ways for hot wheels to travel. The conkers have sparked excitement throughout the school and Squirrels have been using them to practise the cardinal value of numerals, 1 to 1 correspondence and for working out who has more and who has less. It has been a very exciting first few weeks in Squirrels and one of the most exciting firsts was PE with Miss Haynes on Thursdays in the hall and the other was joining the rest of the school for celebration assemblies on a Friday.



During poetry week we read a variety of poems and found one that represented Squirrels class. The poem was "Bonkers about Conkers" which is something the class loves. Conkers are so versatile; they can be used in the mud kitchen, raced down guttering, hunted and gathered as treasure, offering endless learning and fun! We used the conkers to create an autumnal picture to send to the residents of Broughton. The children were thrilled to spread the joy and post their lovely poems.

In numbers, we have been counting carefully, recognising and printing numerals. The children have been carefully printing numerals to their cardinal values. The children are beginning to use the resources available to support their learning, by using a number line to recognise the next number in the sequence. They have thoroughly enjoyed pegging the ghosts, matching the amount of sticks to the numeral pot and tweezering the correct amount of pompoms.













In literacy, we have learnt the story of 'The Little Red Hen', which we performed at the Harvest Festival. The children have been doing lots of mark-making both inside and outside. They have all drawn the characters from the story and been brave enough to label their drawings. They are fearless and willing to have a go. The children made bread, just like the Little Red Hen. They have been exploring where our food comes from and when we first read the story they asked if they could make bread. The activity covered so many parts of the curriculum including reading the recipe, counting in the teaspoons of salt, grams of yeast, spoonfuls of olive oil and measuring the flour. They used their fine and gross motor skills to mix and knead the dough. We used science and discussed that bread needs to rise and we looked at the bubbles in the risen dough when we knocked it back. We used lines from the story and had so much fun!



We started talking about Halloween and the Spooky disco. We read "Room On The Broom" as our hook book. The children led the way again and decided that we could make our own potions in the mud kitchen. We had a big cauldron to cook in and our ingredients choices were conkers, pine cones, twigs, leaves, flowers, sunflowers seeds, coffee beans (for our senses) and mud.

The children have learnt so much, already. Well done Squirrels, you are all doing so well and working so hard. Have a spooktacular half term break!

Please check your child's book bag for letters and items that are no longer needed.



Please read your Little Wandle book three times a week and remember that books change on Wednesday.

Please drop your child off outside the classroom. This then leaves the adults free to assist the children in the classroom.