

W/B 8th October 2018

This Week... We have really taken advantage of the good weather and have been accessing our class outdoor learning area. The main focus for the week has been autumn. We have sang songs and made crafts. The tuff tray has an autumn themed exploration activity with a focus on maths - specifically relating to measures. The children have really enjoyed looking at the tape measures and putting things on the weighing scales.

Water and sand play has been extremely popular this week - Mr Nickson, Mr Privett and Mr Tompson have all especially loved working in the water tray. The main focus was investigating movement/pouring using different sized containers and the water wheels. These particular gentlemen loved this activity and there has definitely been some male bonding going on! (As well as several changes of clothes due to some of the water finding its way on to clothes!)

We have had a range of instruments in the provision this week. Amelia started her own band - she has been making the staff use instruments and join in with her rendition of 'Old MacDonald had a farm!' Zack and Stanners have been playing the guitars (a lot) and have had their own acoustic jamming sessions! We are continuing to explore the instruments during our focused music session and we are seeing some great progress. The children are understanding how to use the instruments appropriately and how to create different sounds. The tambourine song has been very popular - they can shake and tap the tambourines during this song at the correct moments. We had a fantastic time in our school's outdoor learning area where we looked for signs of autumn. We collected leaves and we felt the bark on the trees. We did some bark rubbing and used the natural materials to create craft pieces in class. Jude loved being outside and made some lovely creative mark making pieces.

Our immersive role play area has been set up as a campfire, complete with marshmallows for 'toasting' on our pretend fire. Although a few individuals (who shall remain nameless) have found it more exciting to post the marshmallows into the guitars!! Although this has been a bit of a tricky and sticky situation, it does also support their targets relating to fine motor skills and posting toys! (Every cloud has a silver lining!)

Mack has started his full days this week. He loves playing with the cars and garage and through his excitement and enjoyment, the other children were motivated to join in with this play. We had a lovely small group session, where we had traffic jams; cars going over ramps; parking in the multistore garage; races and a little bit of road rage. Some of the children made appropriate sound effects. This is really useful to help encourage and promote vocalisations and communication (we even managed to slip in a little bit of turn taking and almost sharing!)

As part of our fiddly fingers activities we have a locks and latches Mellissa and Doug board puzzle, which is very popular toy with all the children. Cole managed to unlock all the doors in record time! It was very impressive - but we might have to check security in school! We made leaf biscuits in the baking session this week and Bethany was brilliant at rolling the dough and using/collecting the cutters.

Next Week... We are continuing our focused topic work on autumn and will be starting a sensory story session on the book 'Meg and Mog'. After half term we will have a focused messy play week with a spooky theme. There will be lots of opportunity for the children to explore textures with their hands and to get messy!

Reminders

Thank you so much to all the families who have been emailing photos and news – sorry if I don't always get chance to email with my thanks. The children love looking at pictures of themselves and it is useful to talk about their news during our sharing time session. Please send any photos to lhall@acorns.lancs.sch.uk

Thank you ☺

A polite reminder: as we move into the cough/cold season, if your child is ill please do keep them off school. This is to prevent the spread of infection to the other pupils and class staff.

A voluntary donation of £1 per week is greatly appreciated for baking, snacks, messy and sensory play items.

The home school diaries will not be used after half term. Please use the talking tins, my email or phone school with any information/messages. We are going to be trialling an electronic form of communicating via an app. Details of this will be to follow.



And Finally...

Happy Birthday to Amelia who turned 5 this week!! ☺



And we send a big get well soon hug to Penny, we look forward to seeing you next week!