

ILCHESTER EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

5th December 2025



Did you know?

In the first 5 years of your child's life their brain develops faster than at any other time. Make the most of every moment by making eye contact, chatting and engaging with what they're interested in.

<https://www.nhs.uk/best-start-in-life/early-learning-development/>

Tiggywinkles



This week, the Tiggywinkles have enjoyed lots of winter and Christmas themed activities. The children explored icy small world trays, winter tuff trays, and frozen snowmen scenes, using lots of language and imagination in their play. They practised fine motor skills through tinsel threading, tweezer activities, Dough Disco, and decorating Christmas cards and bags. Number rhymes, park walks, and shape hunts gave them great opportunities to explore early maths and the world around them. They finished the week with festive crafts and a dance class. Another lovely, busy week of learning through play for our Tiggywinkles.

Nutkins

The Nutkins have explored a range of sensory and small world trays this week including snow, winter animals, pom poms, and icy materials. They practised counting, matching, and problem solving through shape trays, puzzles, and snowball activities. Fine motor skills were strengthened with pipettes, tweezers, cutting, and mark making in flour and winter glitter. The children also created winter crafts such as snowflakes, igloos, and mittens, using a variety of textures and tools to support creativity. Across the week, we talked about kindness and helping people in our community, linking this to collecting food for others. Another lovely week of hands-on learning and developing caring values in Nutkins.

Puddleducks

This week, the Puddleducks have explored a chilly winter theme full of snow, ice and Arctic fun. They practised early maths skills through snowflake counting, size sorting, shape hunts and balancing activities. They enjoyed sensory experiences with flour snow, ice, pom pom snowballs and gloop, helping them develop language and fine motor skills. Across the week the children explored Arctic animals through small world play, footprint trails, rescue missions and matching games. Creative opportunities included snow painting, ice painting and igloo building, supporting imagination and early mark making. The Puddleducks also continued practising independence by finding and putting on their own coats, and they joined in with daily sound games, songs and painting opportunities. A lovely wintery week full of exploration and hands-on learning!

School Applications

A reminder that school applications are now open for children due to start school in September 2026. Applications opened on the 29th of September and will close on the 15th of January. Please make sure to submit your application before the deadline.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/>



Hello Cold Weather!

This is a friendly reminder that we are now in Winter meaning the colder months are quickly approaching! Please could you provide your child with suitable clothing, such as warm winter coats and wellies. We also ask that these come labelled with your child's name. It may be a good idea to bring a waterproof suit so your children can continue exploring the great outdoors without adding more laundry!



Nativity Reminder

Tiggywinkles and Nutkins will be taking part in the Nativity on Monday 8th December at 9:30am. The children are very excited to dress up and sing their special song!

Tickets have been sent home this week; we look forward to welcoming you to enjoy the performance.



www.ilchestercommunityprimary.com
