



Did you know?

It is important to use a range of rich vocabulary with children so they can learn and begin to use lots of spoken words. Reading is one of the best ways to increase vocabulary as it introduces children to words they may not come across in their everyday life.

<https://ndna.org.uk/blog/child-development/>

Tiggywinkles



The Tiggywinkles began the week with their Nativity performance on Monday, joining the Nutkins for a wonderful celebration. The children were very proud of themselves and enjoyed sharing the experience with their friends and families. Throughout the week they explored Christmas small world scenes such as winter forests, Santa's workshop and Christmas train sets, using these opportunities to build language, imagination and storytelling skills. Fine-motor activities included baubles and tweezers, peg board Christmas trees, dough disco, cutting skills and Christmas jumper decorating. Creativity flourished with reindeer headbands, large festive mark making and gingerbread playdough. Winter maths and literacy were woven into the provision with number rhymes, matching games and snowy mark-making. It has been a joyful, hands-on week filled with Christmas exploration and celebration for the Tiggywinkles!

Nutkins

The Nutkins have enjoyed festive small world play this week such as Arctic animals, winter woodlands and a Christmas village, using lots of language and imagination in their storytelling. They worked on fine-motor skills through activities like threading stars, tweezers snowmen, loom bands, peg lights and hammering shapes. Early maths was practised with matching tasks, number puzzles and shape activities. Creative opportunities included decorating baubles, painting snowflakes, making Christmas jumpers and creating paper plate wreaths. Throughout the week, they also talked about kindness and helping others. A busy, hands-on week full of winter fun and festive learning for the Nutkins!

Puddleducks

The Puddleducks had a magical, Nutcracker themed week filled with storytelling, creativity and hands-on exploration. They enjoyed activities inspired by The Nutcracker, including dancing, acting out the story, Nutcracker colouring, decorating Christmas trees, and exploring snowy small world scenes. Fine motor play featured magnets and pipe cleaners,

glitter playdough, wrapping presents and building castles, helping strengthen their coordination and early writing skills. The children also took part in sensory experiences such as water play with white balls, ice play, and snowy trays with fairy lights. Throughout the week they practised independence with daily coat finding and putting on challenges. A festive, imaginative week full of sparkle, story and creative fun for the Puddleducks!

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!



Christmas Break

A friendly reminder that our last day this term is the 19th December and we return for the Spring Term on the 6th January.

We hope you have a wonderful break full of rest and joy with your family and friends.

www.ilchestercommunityprimary.com
