

ILCHESTER EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

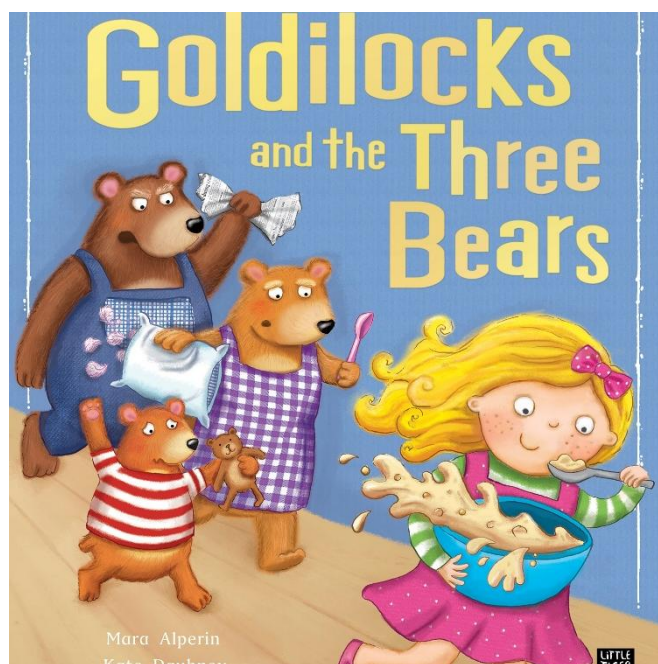
6th February 2026



“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”
~Diane Ackerman

Tiggywinkles

This week in Tiggywinkles, the children have been immersed in story-based learning through familiar tales such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Activities have supported early maths skills as the children explored size, weight and number through comparing bears, counting steps, making porridge and creating numbers using a range of materials. Communication and language have been encouraged through sequencing cards, puppet shows, shopping list writing and group discussions, helping children develop confidence in expressing their ideas. Fine motor skills have been strengthened through peg boards, tweezers, dough disco and sensory play, supporting hand strength and control. Creative opportunities such as painting scenes, building chairs and role-play with masks have encouraged imagination and problem solving. The children also enjoyed movement and music activities, including bear dances and parachute games, supporting physical development and teamwork. Throughout the week, independence and social skills were promoted through collaborative play and shared routines, making it a busy and enjoyable week of learning.



Nutkins

This week in Nutkins, the children explored the theme of heroes and adventures through stories such as *Superworm* and exciting treasure-based activities. The children developed early maths skills by investigating floating and sinking, recognising patterns, comparing heavy and light objects, and exploring numbers through hands on games and puzzles. Communication and language were supported through story discussions, asking and answering questions, library visits and sharing ideas during group time. Sensory and small world play encouraged curiosity and imagination as the children explored treasure trays, woodland scenes and materials such as sand, coins and shaving foam. Fine motor skills were strengthened through cutting, scooping, threading, tweezers and collage work, helping to build hand control and coordination. Creative

activities including treasure maps, lantern collages, painting and heart-themed artwork allowed the children to express themselves and develop confidence in their creativity. Singing and active play were enjoyed daily, supporting physical development, teamwork and confidence. Throughout the week, children were encouraged to develop independence, curiosity and a love of learning through play and exploration.

Puddleducks

This week in Puddleducks, the children have continued to explore our Active Adventures theme through a range of playful, hands-on activities that support early learning and development. Physical development has been a key focus, with opportunities to roll dice, complete puzzles, practise scissor skills and take part in bear rescue and movement activities, helping to build coordination and confidence. Sensory play has been enjoyed through shaving foam, playdough, painting and drawing, encouraging curiosity and creativity. Early maths skills have been supported through stacking and counting cups, shape sorting, matching magnets and exploring numbers in a practical and engaging way. Communication and language have been nurtured through song bags and shared stories, providing familiar routines that support listening and attention. Independence has continued to be encouraged throughout the week, with the children practising finding and putting on their coats as part of daily routines. It has been a settled and enjoyable week, with the children learning through play in a calm and supportive environment.

Cold and Rainy Weather

Please can children arrive at Pre-School with suitable winter clothing to enable them to still partake in all our fun outdoor activities and opportunities. A warm winter coat, wellies, hat and gloves would be perfect.

Please don't put clothing in plastic bags, they are a suffocation hazard. Please only use your child's usual bag or a drawstring bag.



Toilet Training

Toilet training can be very hard and stressful for many families. That's why we always signpost to ERIC for advice on how to manage toilet training and the best tips and tricks.

<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

Week 1:
How to spot the signs of readiness



Stay and Play

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our Stay and Play this week. We loved sharing the session with you and the children.



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