

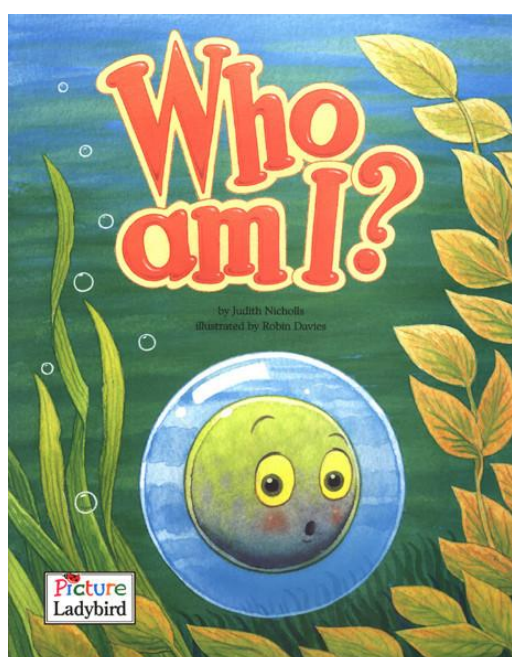
# ILCHESTER EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026



“The more risks you allow children to take, the better they learn to take care of themselves.”

~Roald Dahl



## Tiggywinkles

This week in Tiggywinkles, the children have been exploring the theme of animals, nature and “Who am I?”. The children enjoyed activities that encouraged them to talk about themselves, their families and what makes them special, helping to build confidence and develop communication skills. The children explored early mathematical ideas through pattern activities using natural materials such as acorns, counting during number rhymes and investigating “how many”. These hands-on experiences supported the children in beginning to notice patterns, numbers and quantities through play. Sensory and exploratory play was a big part of the week as the children investigated natural materials including twigs, leaves and hay. They also enjoyed small world play with woodland creatures, creating bug houses and exploring eggs and nests, encouraging curiosity about animals and the natural world. Fine motor skills were strengthened through activities such as threading, dough disco and practising scissor skills. Creative activities included large outdoor painting, mask making, building dens and making bird feeders, giving the children opportunities to explore different materials and express their ideas. The children also enjoyed active play including parachute games, garden yoga and time outdoors during forest school. These experiences supported physical development, confidence and teamwork while helping the children develop a love for the outdoors.

## Nutkins

This week in Nutkins the children explored the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* as part of their fairy tales and folklore theme. The children enjoyed retelling and sequencing the story, acting it out with their friends and exploring small world play with the goats and bridge, which supported their imagination, communication and storytelling skills. The children developed their early maths skills through a range of activities including comparing sizes such as big, medium and small, grouping characters and comparing quantities using more and less. They also explored patterns while creating large floor shapes and sorting different objects. Sensory and exploratory play encouraged curiosity throughout the week as the children investigated different materials such as flour, blue rice, cornflour and mud. Creative activities allowed the children to express their ideas as they built bridges for the goats, created story scenes, made bookmarks and designed their own musical shakers.

Fine motor skills were strengthened through threading, cutting activities and using tweezers to pick up small objects, helping to develop hand strength and coordination. The children also enjoyed singing, movement games and parachute play together, building confidence, teamwork and enjoyment in group activities.

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## Puddleducks

This week in Puddleducks, the children explored a fairy tale and fantasy theme, enjoying a range of imaginative and sensory activities. The children had lots of fun creating castles, building caves and exploring small world castle play, encouraging creativity and storytelling through play. They also explored dragons throughout the week, feeding the dragon, singing dragon songs and investigating dragon eggs using pom poms and tweezers, which helped develop their fine motor skills. The children took part in a variety of creative experiences including fire painting, castle painting and outdoor painting, as well as exploring different textures through gloop and foam play. Early maths skills were supported through activities such as counting flags, comparing sizes when building castles and exploring “more or less” while scooping and pouring in sensory play. Messy play and mark making opportunities encouraged the children to experiment, explore and express their ideas, while puzzles, construction and small world play supported problem solving and cooperative play with their friends.

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## Forest School

Please remember to bring in wellies and waterproof clothing for your child on Mondays for Forest School. This will allow them to stay comfortable and fully enjoy exploring, playing and learning outdoors in all weathers.

**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.**



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## 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



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[www.ilchestercommunityprimary.com](http://www.ilchestercommunityprimary.com)

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