



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

~Maria Montessori

## Tiggywinkles

This week in Tiggywinkles, the children explored a range of activities that encouraged curiosity, creativity and communication. The children enjoyed sensory play experiences such as sand trays, desert small world play and messy activities, which allowed them to explore different textures and materials while developing their imagination and language skills. The children developed early mathematical understanding through activities including exploring different shapes, talking about more and less, and learning positional language such as under and over. During outdoor walks the children also looked at numbers on doors around the estate, helping them begin to recognise numbers in the environment. Creative activities gave the children opportunities to express their ideas and develop their fine motor skills. The children enjoyed making Mother’s Day cards, decorating plant pots and planting flowers, as well as creating masks, painting with different tools and designing labels. Fine motor development was supported through activities such as peg boards, dough disco and painting with cotton buds, helping to strengthen hand muscles and coordination. The children also practised mark making and used a variety of materials to create their own pictures and designs.



## Nutkins

This week in Nutkins, the children have been developing their skills through a range of hands-on activities that encouraged exploration, creativity and independence. The children enjoyed a variety of small world and imaginative play experiences including cars and garages, trains and tracks, dolls and house play and farm animals. These activities supported the children in

developing their imagination, communication and social skills while playing alongside their friends. The children explored early mathematical concepts through activities such as sorting and identifying numbers using number blocks, matching shapes, exploring different sizes with construction materials and investigating floating and sinking objects in water. These experiences help the children begin to notice numbers, shapes and comparisons through play. Creative activities were a highlight of the week as the children made Mother's Day cards and decorated plant pots before planting seeds. These activities gave the children the opportunity to explore different materials while also learning how to care for plants. Fine motor development was supported through activities such as peg boards, tweezers and pom poms, scissor skills and dough disco. These experiences help strengthen the muscles in the children's hands and fingers, supporting early writing and control when using tools.

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## Puddleducks

This week in Puddleducks, the children focused on the story of *The Three Little Pigs*. The children enjoyed sitting together to listen to the story and talking about the different characters and what happened in the tale. This helped to develop their listening skills, attention and understanding of stories. The children explored the story through a range of hands-on activities. They built houses for the pigs using different materials and talked about which ones were stronger and why. The children also enjoyed role playing the story, taking turns to be the wolf and pretending to blow the houses down, which supported their imagination, confidence and communication. Creative and sensory activities allowed the children to further explore the story as they painted with toy pigs and then washed them in soapy water afterwards. This messy play encouraged sensory exploration while also helping the children develop their fine motor skills. The children also enjoyed making special Mother's Day cards. They painted their hands to create handprints and decorated them by sticking on leaves to make flowers. The children were very proud of their creations and enjoyed taking part in this thoughtful activity. Throughout the week the children worked together, shared resources and used their imagination to retell parts of the story through play. These experiences supported their social skills, language development and creativity while making learning fun and engaging.

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## Toys at Pre-School

To help prepare the children for their transition to school, we kindly ask that toys are not brought into Pre-School from home. This helps the children focus on the activities and resources available in the setting and supports them in developing independence and responsibility, similar to expectations in school.

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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/>

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Week 1:  
How to spot the signs of readiness



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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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