



Wee Rascals Too Newsletter

Term 4 June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Hello to everyone, and welcome to our term 4 newsletter. After having rain and snow over the past few months, we have now received some very hot, scorching sun recently! All the children in the rooms have been incorporating the varied weather we have been experiencing into their themes and topics. Children are able to contribute to their own choice of interests and be part of their own learning journey.

Upcoming staff changes

We were sorry to say goodbye to Gillian Morrison who left on the 23rd of May. We wish her all the best and we will all miss her!

Nikki will be departing on the 14th of July to start her maternity leave. We look forwards to meeting the little one. Emma Wright will be covering Nikki's maternity leave whilst she is away.

Charity of the Year

For 2022, all five Summers nurseries supported and raised money for two charities for the Ukraine crisis appeal. We raised £3,263.10 for CAFOD (an international developmental charity), and £4130.45 for UNICEF, giving a total of £7393.35 raised altogether for Ukraine. Thank you again for your kind generosity!

For 2023, the nursery is supporting the Great Ormond Street Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children. The centre is a partnership between Great Ormond Street hospital for children, University College London (UCL), Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, and Great Ormond Street Hospital children's charity. Great Ormond Street forms the largest concentration of children's research in Europe.

The centre opened in 2019 and focuses on developing genomics expertise, pioneering cell and gene therapy approaches, as well as regenerative medicine therapies. The centre houses a state-of-the-art cell facility that allows researchers to develop new stem and cell treatments for children with rare and complex conditions.

The centre is a catalyst for global collaboration and unique national and international partnership opportunities. Research is also unlocking invaluable treatments for more common diseases, and adult disease on a worldwide scale. It helps children with rare diseases, saving lives through accurate diagnosis and better therapies that are tailored to each individual child on a personalised approach to treatment.

New scientific breakthroughs and technologies offer hope for diagnosis and treatments for children that were unimaginable a few years ago. It is recognised that paediatric research is even more critical because early breakthroughs are likely to continue to come

from the study of children with rare disorders, with findings having the potential to feed into treatments for more common conditions or those affecting adults.

On the 20th of May we had a successful Coffee Morning, raising £546.60. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Charity of the year, buying tickets for teas, coffee and a fancy piece. We had a bottle stall, 'Guess the Teddy's Name' and Lucky Dips.

Sports day will be held on Saturday the 8th of July alongside Wee Rascals. We will jointly be providing a tuckshop and face paints. There will be tattoos and lucky dips as well, and we all race against our friends.

Learning experiences

Little Bunnies

The little Bunnies were feeling the love during their Valentines Day celebrations. They spent the whole week discovering the colour Red. They made love hearts and cards to give their true loves - mums and dads of course!

The milder weather has allowed for the Little Bunnies to fully experience their gross motor skills in the garden, as we were able to leave the wetsuits behind and learn how to move our legs and arms with the balance bikes and rockers. Children were able to practise their developing ball skills by rolling, throwing, and catching.



We looked at Shrove Tuesday, and using playdough, we were able to provide a lifelike experience, mixing ingredients and adding toppings, as well as introducing skills such as cutting with the plastic knives. Children used descriptive words such as "Hot", "Cold", "Soft", "Wet" and "Hard".



World book day in March allowed the children to dress up as Characters. This was an enjoyable experience for all the children as they were able to share story books together, turn pages, and point out recognisable pictures on the pages.

Easter is one of the best topics in the Little Bunnies room. Children love the egg moulds, showing a lot of curiosity of what is inside, opening them and removing the contents, and then replacing the object, before burying and digging them up again! Pipe cleaners, as well as mini chicks and bunnies etc

were provided as a sensory and tactile experience, and this also helped the children to identify the different animals.





Vegetable printing encouraged the children to learn about healthy and unhealthy foods. During this activity, the children were able to create a variety of patterns using different shapes and colours.

The beginning of May was all about celebrating the King's Coronation. We decorated flags and bunting using blue, white and red paints and pens, before hanging them up to decorate. We had a scone and jam party, and some of the parents let us know about places or parties they had been to over the Coronation weekend, enabling us to discuss the events with the children.

Cheeky Monkeys

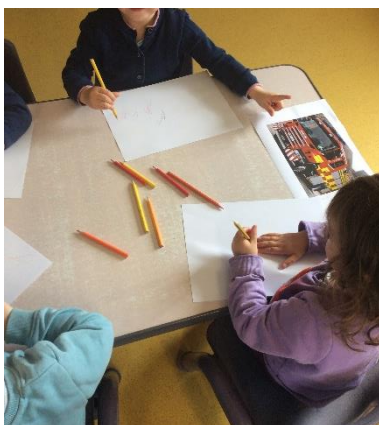
For Valentines Day, we explored the meaning of love, and the children participated in water play activities with sequin hearts, as well as making their own cards, with the children decorating the cards for someone they love.

World Book Day brought inspiration to share, reading favourite books. Children told us that they read books "At my Home" and "Mummy and daddy read a story at bedtime". Children learnt about the spine of a book and the title, and what it means.

One child brought in 'The Tiger who came to Tea' book, which encouraged lots of discussion, which helped increase the children's vocabulary as they used words from the book such as "Cake", "Sandwich" and phrases such as "Drinks all the tea".



Who would have believed it snowed in March? enough for us to stomp in it, as well as scoop it up for our messy tray. The children were able to use scoops to transport it, and they watched it as it melted away in the warm room.



The Cheeky Monkeys visited Dizzy Rascals on the 25th of April. The children were excited about the bus journey, identifying familiar sights through the windows on the way. Once arriving, there was so much to explore - climbing, sliding, riding bikes, and a bouncy castle, as well as a home area with a kitchen and a huge pirate ship.



We had a fire engine visit to the nursery and we loved going outside to see all the different pieces of equipment, with the children able to go inside. The fire man even put on the blue lights! Afterwards, the children were engaged in puzzles, story books, and mark making about fire engines and how they help us.

Children decorated their own Shamrocks for St Patricks Day. We discussed the history behind it and the children loved selecting small pieces to glue down to create the Shamrock.

We looked at Spring and Easter, and the children enjoyed activities such as matching the coloured eggs to the corresponding coloured chick, searching in the hay to find a matching pair.



Busy Bees

At the start of term, children were fascinated by the growing flowers. They planted sunflower seeds, and each child had the responsibility of planting and caring for their own plants throughout the term. We looked at the life cycle, from seed, to sprout, to bloom, which included what they need to survive. Children were able to tell us what they had learnt, including, "You need to make sure the seed gets lots of water and sunshine". After going home, we now look forward to receiving lots of photos of fully grow, tall sunflowers!



We have been visiting Wee Green Space, and we have seen a notable difference with the warmer weather, noticing a variety of wildflowers, and even spotting snails with their different colours and patterns on their shells!

We learnt about penguins, how they waddle, and the children created their own penguin environments and games using sensory materials such as crazy soap, creating bridges for them during our save the penguin game.

During Valentines Day, the children discussed emotions and they looked at symmetry, creating a heart, painting two curves coming to a point.

Our ever-changing weather forecast has made for extensive conversations about the different weather we experience, and the seasons. The children enjoyed creating rainbows, threading patterns, which helped them to understand sequences, as well as develop their colour recognition skills. We also incorporated lots of numeracy, using games such as our raindrop counting game.

We discussed the meaning of Equinox, the first day of Spring, and observed the cherry blossom starting to appear on the trees. The children learnt about baby animals, painted tulips, and made Spring themed sensory bottles, choosing what they put inside them.

We added bulbs to the flower box, and the children enjoying watching them grow. Strawberries and apples have also been planted from seeds left over from our snack We hope to demonstrate the life cycle of the strawberry of fruit to seed, seed to fruit.

The children created wonderful shapes and patterns drawing their own Easter egg designs and used scissors to cut out their chicks. They also measured out and mixed the ingredients for their chocolate nests.

One of the highlights so far this term has been the visit from the Fire Engine. We listened well to a talk from the fireman as he explained the use of the hoses and the varied buttons. The children had a chance to sit inside the engine, and we took a photo as he put the blue lights on! This led onto further discussion about other people who help us, such as the Dentist.



Dizzy Rascals was our trip of the term, and this went down well! The children were so good and really got the most out of their day. There were so many areas to explore, and everyone was always busy. We had a huge climbing frame with zip lines, a four-seater slide, which made for great fun, as we could race our friends and the staff at the same time!

There was an enormous ball pit, a bouncy castle, pirate ship, bicycle area, castle etc...., not to mention a party music area where we all had a good boogie! The bus ride as usual was a massive highlight for the children. I'm sure the children and staff all slept well that evening.

Holidays

Please let me know about any pre-planned holidays as soon as possible.

Outdoor Clothing

Can we please ask that you plan for the upcoming weather and any changes. Please ask the Room Leaders if you are unsure of what is required.

Indoor and outdoor shoes are required for all children who can walk.

Dates for your diary

22nd June - Pre-school Graduation

5th July Parents Evening

8th July - Sports Day

Kind regards

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