



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2022



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January 2022



What a busy start to 2022 we have had!

Firstly an enormous thank you to our wonderful team and families for supporting us as Covid came into the nursery this month.

We are very excited to launch a new service in our setting this year. We welcome Speech Therapist, Lucy Colcombe, who will be working closely with us at St. Michael's Nursery. At St Michael's Nursery we are committed to supporting children and their families with any help that they may need. We are aware that within North Devon, children who require some support with their communication face a long wait, firstly to be assessed to determine their needs and then to receive some speech and language therapy. With this in mind we aim to help these children and families while they wait for their appointments by offering a private assessment with a private speech therapist while at nursery. Lucy will also be training our team in communication and speech development. As you may know Emma Hedge is our SENDCO at nursery , she works with many outside agencies to support children in their development and she will be liaising with families when children might benefit from support from Lucy .



<https://www.lucycolcombe.com/>



This month the children have enjoyed the RSPB Bird Watch, as well as learning about squirrels (and seeing a real drey!) and also wriggly fun learning about worms ...did you know worms have a saddle?

Liz has been keeping the children's tummies full with her new delicious menu, introducing new homemade dishes and teas – soup has been a favourite afternoon treat ... thank you Liz!!

While we have all been working in different rooms to cover staff absence we have noticed there are many children's belongings unnamed, such as coats , hats and bags – please could families help

us by ensuring everything is named clearly to prevent muddling of belongings! There are many different naming stickers on the market now if sewing is not a favourite pastime. Thank you for understanding how important this is.



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



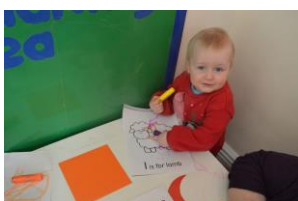
Our youngest group, the little Ladybirds, have been exploring the concept of the light, dark shadows, colour and shapes by using a Light Box. The children were fascinated by the different shapes and materials that they put on the box. The box changes colour which was a huge source of excitement. The Ladybird group like to crawl inside the large play tunnel and hide inside the tent.

The Winter display is coming along a treat with little painted owls now been added to the narrative of the display. The Ladybirds use different objects to experience how paint can be applied to paper. No wonder Ladybirds are ready for their lunch when it arrives!



The sun is low in the sky, it's late afternoon on a stunning January day. Butterflies are fortunate enough to have their very own beautiful secure balcony garden to spill out onto. The children love venturing further into the large garden area and playing with the larger equipment and

resources including the slide, playhouse and push cars. They meet their friends in Dragonflies and Kindergarten. By noon, they are ready for a hearty meal before a little snooze. Their singing can be heard far and wide and there are always stories that the children enjoy listening to.



DRAGONFLIES

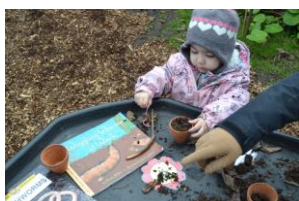


Dragonflies took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and took home a certificate. We have been learning all about birds in our woodland sessions. The children have loved making binoculars, paintings, their own nests by making playdough and collecting twigs and also using bird ID sheets.



We have also loved learning all about Dinosaurs this month. One of the best activities was to mix some paint and stomp the dinosaurs through it to make some gigantic Dinosaur footprints!

We love playing with our friends in our Garden Room. We have lots of fun toys to play with and explore. It spills straight out on the garden where we have a huge choice of large resources and toys to play and ride on.





KINDERGARTEN

Wiggly worms are a plenty in the woods! Kindergarten have been exploring why worms are such an important part of our eco-system. The children were fascinated to learn how worms break through the soil and eat decaying plant matter. We have a compost bin and this proved a very popular activity to fill it will straw, hay and leaves. The children loved the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch last week so this was a nice segway into learning about the food chain. Sarah showed us a funny dance that the birds do to trick the worms to the surface of the soil. "Worms live under the ground."

We have also loved Charlotte's story bag about the 'Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr and playing new group games. We celebrated Chinese New Year by making the most ginormous Chinese Dragon, looking at the resources an the interest table (including chopsticks, calendars, ornaments and china plates). We had the most beautiful and serene traditional music playing in the woodland, chimes and songs.



ECO-HEROES - NEWS

Thank you for providing your child with a reusable bag for their wet or soiled clothing.



The Eco-Heroes have been using the compost bin this week. We had great fun raking up all the leaves and learning about how worms are a vital part of the eco-system. The children are amazing at helping and we look forward to our next big project launch later in the Spring.



Dates for your Diary/Notices:

Half Term 21st – 27th February



St. Michael's Nursery


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