



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



DAFFODIL EDITION

February / March 2023

It's Spring! There are buds on the trees, flowers popping up and lambs have been spotted in the fields. A time for celebration and looking forward to longer, brighter days.



Some of our families have been celebrating the Hindu festival, Holi. It's a celebration of the changing of the season, Spring time, new life and love. Some of our Kindergarten children worked collaboratively to make a large colourful, stitched canvas with wool and beautiful patterns using everyday objects.



On International Women's Day we celebrate the wonderful women on our team! Not only are we Early Years Practitioners who greet you with a smile every day we are also... Mums, daughters, sisters nieces, aunties, grandmothers, a marathon runner, graduates, apprentices, college students, first aiders, safeguarding leads, a hairdresser, a beginner violinist, mental health first aiders, a swimming teacher, carers at home, an actor, a scout leader, a geocacher, a charity fundraiser for CLIC, choir singer, a brownie leader, a genealogist, a seamstress, a village hall committee member, an artist, dog lovers, a baker, a parish councillor, a charity fundraiser for Everything Ellie, a Platinum Champion, a caterer, gardeners, phew!

We took part in Red Nose Day with children and staff turning up to nursery wearing red, some wore pyjamas, others dressed up and some had on some very red curly wigs! We raised £30.00 and we thank everyone for their generosity.





The NDNA launched their annual Healthy Body, Happy Me campaign. This year it's all about Communication and Language in the early



years. Communication and language is an essential area of learning for children to develop and essential in order to be able to communicate their needs. It helps strengthen children's ability to make friends, resolve conflicts and maintain relationships. We learn how to communicate our feelings and emotions, likes, interests and dislikes. It helps when talking about rules and boundaries to keep us safe and learning about the world around us.



The NDNA set out five different categories as the focus for each day and then we put together a fun activity programme designed to develop these skills. The five categories are Stories, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Water Play, Nature and Movement. It was terrific fun with children forming a band, planting seeds, parachute games, dancing, Yoga and reading stories. <https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/happy-body-healthy-me-week>



A very BIG thank you to Little Clouds Soft Play, for setting up the most beautiful soft play experience for our little Butterflies & Dragonflies to enjoy.

<https://www.facebook.com/Little.Clouds.Soft.Play>

The children spent time exploring, climbing, scooping, sliding, balancing and bouncing. It is an excellent way to help develop children's balance, coordination, confidence building and emotional well being. It's also a lovely, gentle introduction

to soft play. It was fascinating watching children enter the room full of curiosity and to then build in confidence climbing the steps to the slide and sliding down independently.

"Little Clouds Soft Play Hire offers elegant and modern soft play hire based in Barnstaple, North Devon. We are also able offer Balloon Decor.

Our equipment is neutral tones allowing our set up to be the perfect touch for any occasion."

For more information or to hire a set up suitable for your requirements please visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Little.Clouds.Soft.Play> and email: little.clouds.soft.play@outlook.com

Don't forget to mention St. Michael's Nursery!



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



You have probably read the book but have you ever fully immersed yourself in the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'? Butterflies have really enjoyed hearing this story and exploring the sensory Tuff Tray. The rough feel of the twigs, the smell of the compost, the smoothness of the grass and the rustling of the foil trips for the river. We certainly had a splashing time!

A Tiger! Who would have thought it! Zoe created another one of her wonderfully inviting Tuff Trays allowing the children to fully immerse themselves in the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. They even had real authentic resources such as china tea cups and baking trays. This gives the children a difference experience other than plastic toys. It allows them to feel the authenticity of the items, the weight, the coolness of the steel, the delicacy of the china and the weight of something heavy. They even had a full sensory experience with tea bags and cold water to facilitate their investigative mind.... pouring, stirring, mixing, emptying and watching the ripples of the water.





DRAGONFLIES



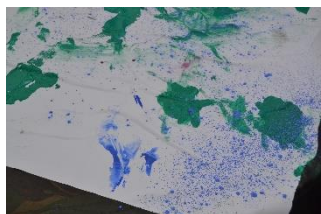
Dragonflies had the best idea to bake some delicious Gingerbread biscuits for their tea. They have been enjoying the story of The Gingerbread Man and can often be heard running around the garden singing, "run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

Ginger scented playdough was another fun activity the children enjoyed. This is such a lovely, calming activity and it opens up opportunity to develop fine motor skills, tool use, rolling, flattening, mark making and so much more.

We had great fun dressing up for Red Nose Day!

We also have the most beautiful sensory tray in the garden room, inviting the children to talk about Spring time. The children enjoy looking at the colours and investigating the sensory experience of the coloured rice. They are learning about Spring time, new life and what plants in order to grow.

The Hindu festival of Holi also celebrates the changing of the season through colour. Children in Dragonflies had great fun splattering paint outside and using large brushes to create shapes and patterns on the ground. Beautiful, colourful and real celebration of brighter days!





Can you build your own house? 😊

Three little pigs



KINDERGARTEN



Sarah visits us every Wednesday morning to run our Gardening Club. We have a beautiful wild flower area, large garden, two large vegetable patches and a rewilding area for insects and minibeasts. Sarah and the children have already prepared the soil in the vegetable patches, turning it over and learning all about the important job that earthworms have.



The children have made Papier-mâché plant pots and they have been talking about which vegetables they would like to grow. We are well on our way to achieve our RHS Level 2 Gardening Awards.

The children have also enjoyed football, flour/goop fun, large group games, parachute games, Goldilocks & the Three Bears small world, books, rhymes, counting, colour sorting, treasure hunts, sewing, outdoor learning, mixing paint, looking after the pet rabbit, learning about land fill and recycling centres, e-safety, bringing the slide inside and delicious food.





ECO-HEROES - NEWS



St. Michael's
Nursery

Inspired by the BBC Radio 2 campaign 'Let it Grow', why not get yourself some seeds and have a go yourself? Top Tip: Keep your yogurt pot and reuse it to grow cress. Simply pop in some cotton wool, sprinkle on some seeds and keep moist. Or like Sarah, keep your newspaper and make Papier-mâché pots!



Notice Board:



Remember...I don't need to rinse my mouth out with water after brushing my teeth



<https://www.facebook.com/ccsdentalhealthcare>

Join us on a

BEAR HUNT



<https://www.chsw.org.uk/event/bear-hunt-sculpture-trail>



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NDNA