

## The Hedgehogs

The Hedgehogs have been working hard all year and have had some fantastic experiences!

It has been a pleasure to work with such an experienced team and I am so proud of the fantastic progress the Hedgehogs have made within Nursery this year, they will all do fantastic next year in reception.

### Autumn Term:

Children started nursery part time, gradually building up to full time over a couple of weeks. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring and investigating the setting in the autumn term, making fantastic use of both the indoor and outdoor areas, building up their Physical and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.



The children began to build relationships and play alongside their peers and began to follow the rules and boundaries of our setting, learning to share resources and turn take. They began to imaginatively role play with one and other, playing alongside and responding to each other each other beginning to build strong relationships. The children have particularly shown a great fascination with our outdoor environment this year and they have enjoyed exploring and finding mini beasts.



We started off the Autumn term with a traditional tales topic as the children had shown interest in print in the environment and sharing stories. We decided to focus on the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The three Little Pigs and Jack and the Bean Stalk. The children are fabulous at joining in repeated refrains and acting out the stories!



The Three little Pigs story led on to a huge amount of imaginative role play and construction. The children built houses and towers with a range of materials both in and outdoors!





During November the children celebrated Bonfire Night and drew a range of bonfire pictures using gross motor movements and a range of mark making tools.



The children experienced their first whole school experience in the run up to Christmas, when they went to watch 'The Snowbear' performance with ks1. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and joined in with all actions and songs.



The children were very sensible and knew how to stay safe while they were out trick or treating and during Bonfire Night. It is a pleasure to know we have such sensible and clever children in our school.

At Christmas the children loved exploring a range of Christmas themed activities and games. The children created a fabulous recycled Christmas tree, using egg boxes and bottle lids and tries very hard to assemble it.



We turned our classroom into a winter wonderland and the children thoroughly enjoyed working in Santa's Workshop to help the elves during such a busy time! I don't think Santa's mail box has ever been so full with all the fantastic letters the children were writing to him!



The children thoroughly enjoyed our *winter wonderland* and completely got into the spirit, dressing up and role playing as Santa, exploring different size and shape baubles and decorating our

own Christmas Tree in class. The children also had a fabulous time at our Christmas party, particularly the guest appearance from Santa Claus!



The children really are brilliant at following instructions for games and thinking of new and imaginative ways to move their bodies!



## Spring Term:

In the Spring term we started to teach Letters and Sounds to children during small group time, focusing on developing their listening skills. The children have made outstanding progress in this area.

We visited the Bear Factory to get our own Class Bear Belinda. The children were so well behaved and a credit to the school during the visit. When we got back we turned our classroom into a bear factory and sorted and wrapped lots of different bears. The children role played working in a bear factory, they would all make brilliant shop assistants.



We also explored Chinese New year and made a range of different creative pieces such as Dragons, lanterns and explored the importance of the colour red to Chinese people.



We were extremely lucky to have the chance to make and build some Chinese Kites. We were even more lucky that it was a very windy day outdoors and we were able to fly them high in our outdoor area.



We visited Dobbies Garden Centre and got to plant some seedlings. We looked after them brilliantly and they are now in our garden. We made a garden centre in our classroom and looked at lots of different healthy fruits and vegetables we could eat and plant. We got to taste lots of fruit and even got to make soup. It was delicious.





**Summer Term:**

This term we have been exploring water and its uses. We started off by reading the story 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. We learned all about Rivers and even went on a visit to see our own river at Newburn.



The children acted out the story using puppets and showed great interest in it. We made lots of different pictures of sea creatures and boats and had a fabulous time learning about how we use water and why.



