

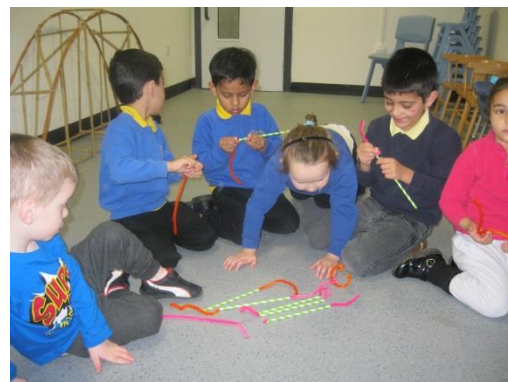
Reception Brown Bears and Polar Bears Governors Report



Wow what a year we have had! Full of excitement, learning, challenge, laughter and fun! We hope you enjoy reading about some of the exciting learning experiences we have had.

The local area

One of the first topics we learnt about was our local area, with a focus on rivers and bridges. The children enjoyed learning about the River Tyne and the bridges which cross it, including a visit down to the Quayside. We were also very lucky to have an artist called Kate come in and work with the classes to build our very own Tyne Bridge. Kate brought in lots of materials and resources which we explored and had a play around with. We then learnt how to weave the materials through the bridge structure to decorate it. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed this Reggio Emilia inspired project and were very proud of our bridge, which they can choose to play with in the classroom.



Build-a-bear visit

As an incentive for the children to come to school every day we had a trip on the school mini bus to Fenwicks in town. We visited Build-a-Bear where each class got to choose and help to make a bear to bring back to school. We had lots of fun looking at all of the different teddies, clothes and accessories and had a vote to decide which ones to choose. The Brown Bear's have Brownie the bear and the Polar Bear's have Biscuit the dog; both teddies go home with someone each night to have a sleepover. Every Friday, the bear's go home with a child who has been in school all week for the weekend. We really look forward to reading and hearing about what the bear's got up to with our children at home.



Christmas

Christmas is always a very exciting time at Bridgewater! We were invited to a special winter performance in the hall called Snow Bear. The children loved watching the puppet show and were singing the songs from the show for the rest of the day. We also watched the school performance of Cinderella Rockerfella which of course was fantastic. Along with the Koalas, nursery children and 0-3's, we put on a Nativity performance for the rest of the school and parents. We learnt some new songs and some of us got to dress up and have a part on the stage. We also got together with the other Early Years classes to sing some of our other favourite Christmas songs.



The Trust had a recycled Christmas tree competition for all classes. The Polar Bear's decided to use a fallen branch and small recycled materials to decorate their tree. The Brown Bear's stacked recycled milk cartons to make their tree. Both were amazing and the children learnt about the importance of recycling.

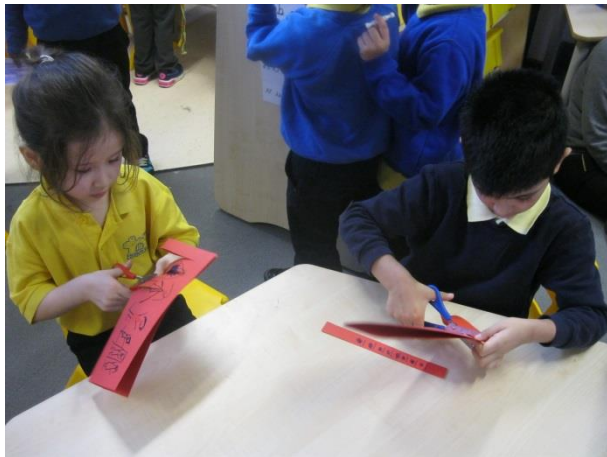


We all dressed up smartly for our Christmas party day. We played games in the hall and had a dance to some of our favourite songs. One of the most exciting parts of the day was a visit from Santa Claus. All of the children were delighted to see him in our school and were wondering where his sleigh and reindeers were?



Chinese New Year

For Chinese New Year the children learnt and practised new skills, for example using fine paint brushes to copy Chinese writing. We also designed and made our own Chinese kites which we were so excited to fly on a windy day. We used the internet to research what it is like at Chinese New Year parades and danced to some of the music.



Café visit

We transformed our home corner into a role play Café which the children loved. In small groups we walked to Scotswood Café and had some toast and juice. We looked at the menus and helped to count out the money to pay for our food. Following the visit the children were even more excited to engage in the Café role play; taking orders, making food and paying for their snacks.



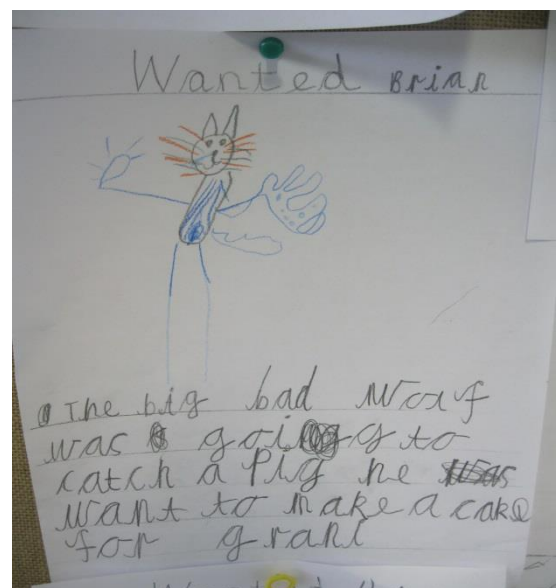
Clean for the Queen

As part of a nationwide campaign to clean up Britain in preparation for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, we carried out a litter pick around the outdoor area. This activity enabled the children to learn about the importance of caring for the environment, litter, recycling and the Queen. We also designed posters to encourage other people to always put litter in the bin.



Book Week

During Book Week we had the opportunity to dress in our pyjamas or as a favourite book character for a day, experience lots of different stories and write about our favourite character or story. We also watched the production of The Wolf on Trial, which challenged the children's view on the traditional tale of the 3 Little Pigs. We all found this play very exciting and led our learning into further investigations around the story of the 3 Little Pigs. We turned our role play area into one of the pig's houses and the children enjoyed dressing as the characters to act out the story. We designed 'Wanted' posters to try to catch the wolf, we built houses with sticks, wood and blocks and looked at different materials and problem solved how we could get the houses to stay up should the wolf visit and huff and puff to blow our house down!



Daisy, Henrietta, Frankie and Juliette

At various times throughout the year the children have taken on the responsibility of looking after our school chickens. This experience has taught the children about caring for animals and health, safety and hygiene issues. As well as leaving them curious to find out facts about chickens which some of the children were very keen to research further on the internet.



Hall Hill Farm

Following on from the children's interest in animals we decided to learn about farm animals and visited Hall Hill Farm in Durham. This was a fantastic educational experience which equipped the children with knowledge about many animals and allowed them to experience an environment very different to the one they live in. Our guide for the day ensured the children experienced everything there was on offer (and we even experienced snow as it flurried off and on all day). The children enjoyed a ride in a tractor and trailer, looked at and learned about chickens, turkeys, ducks, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, ponies, sheep, lambs, a Jersey cow, pigs, piglets, goats and kids. Every child was able to bottle feed a lamb and if they wanted feed many of the animals by hand. We ended the day each holding a baby chick and giving a rabbit and guinea pig a hug! After an amazing fun

filled action packed day, we headed back to school feeling exhausted and listening to a few gentle snores from the back seat!



Assembly

Seeing the children had such a rich experience at the farm we decided to share it with their parents. Our whole assembly showcased our exciting day as the children acted out many verses from the song 'Old MacDonald had a Farm'. Every child had a part to play either singing the song, travelling across the stage on the coach, dressed as one of the animals and making the animal sound or reading an animal fact they had learnt. At the end of the assembly the parents were able to watch a slide show of the many photographs we had taken. The hall was packed and every parent and child left with a smile on their face (and probably singing Old MacDonald had a Farm for the rest of the day!).



Enterprise Week

The children had an action packed timetable during Enterprise Week learning about the world of work and the many different occupations they could choose when they are older. Our role play area was transformed into a Vets Surgery and we talked about the job a vet does. We learned about the role of a Police Officer from two visiting PC's and the children had great fun looking closely at the many different uniforms and equipment they use. We even got to sit in a police van, listen to the siren and watch the flashing lights. Throughout the week the children baked seaside themed cupcakes to sell and enjoyed visiting the fayre at the end of the week, where all children were able to buy goodies and play games to win prizes. Mrs Laidler kindly made a seaside themed giant cupcake so our reception classes could raise more money by raffling it off to our parents. It was a very exciting moment waiting to see who had won!





The Future is Bright!

Although we have reached the end of this school year we still have lots to look forward to. The children will be taking part in Health and Fitness Week, Sports Day, Science Week and our end of year trip to the beach. The fun and learning never stops!!

We have had an amazing year with the children and we are so proud of how hard they have worked and the progress and achievements they have made.