

The squirrels



This has been my first year as full time nursery teacher at Bridgewater and it has been an enjoyable learning experience. This has been a successful year in nursery and the children have responded well to the opportunities that we have provided and have made good progress in all areas of their development.

At the end of last year we held an open day for the children and their parents/carers to come into nursery to meet the staff. This was followed with some home visits for a few of the children which provide a good basis for relationships between staff, parents and the children.

Children started nursery part time, gradually building up to full time over a couple of weeks. This allowed children to really settle in and begin to feel comfortable and confident with staff and their classroom. For a small number of children this process was longer and they built up gradually to attending a full day.

We began the autumn term with a getting to know you topic which allowed children to build new relationships with peers and staff and feel more secure in their new environment. The children enjoyed making self-portraits during their first few weeks at nursery.

The children have enjoyed reading some traditional tales. We read the three little pigs, Goldilocks and the three bears, Jack and the beanstalk, Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Gingerbread man. The children enjoyed many activities during this topic, the favourite was baking gingerbread men they were delicious!

As the leaves began to fall from the trees the children showed great interest in the changes and spend most days playing and collecting leaves. The children made autumn pictures with the natural materials that they found outdoors. We used some of these natural materials to support their counting, conkers for counting and using leaves to develop their knowledge of size.

To follow the children's interest we arranged a trip to Jesmond Dene where they observed the autumn changes followed by a visit to the animal corner. Before we came back to school we had time for a quick play in the park which was lots of fun!



Towards the end of the autumn term the children enjoyed engaging with a Christmas theme, learning the story of the first Christmas, participating in the EYFS nativity, visiting Santa at Dobbies, making Christmas cards, decorations and magic reindeer dust. The term was finished off with our annual Christmas party and visit from Santa.



Spring Term

The children were very excited to be back at school after the Christmas break. We had lots of windy weather so we read the story Percy the Park Keeper. The children explored the wildlife area where we looked for any wildlife that we could build homes for. We also observed that the wildlife area was a bit messy so the children dressed as Percy with their wheel barrows and bin bags and helped tidy the area.

We also made bird food and the children learnt why it is important to look after animals and creatures.

Our attendance started to drop last half term so in order to promote good attendance we had a trip to the build a bear shop in the Metro Centre to choose and build a bear which the children could take home for a night or weekend if they attended school every day. This proved to raise attendance and the children enjoyed taking 'Scooby' home. They looked after him really well and told us in a journal what adventures they had got up to.



The children celebrated Chinese New Year. We made lanterns and enjoyed taking part in a dragon dance outdoors. We also had the opportunity to taste some Chinese food, we all tried noodles, spring rolls and prawn crackers, they were very tasty.





We had fun celebrating world book day. We wore pj's and brought our favourite books in to share with our friends.

We were invited back to Dobbies to take part in a workshop; the children planted seedlings and observed other plants in the garden centre. The children brought the seedlings back to school where we have watched them grow.



Summer term

Our topic this half term was water. We talked about all the different ways we use water at school and home. The children enjoyed making water collages and boat pictures. We were lucky to have another trip this half term to Newburn Park. We went for a lovely walk along the river and watched the rowing club having a practise.





We had our assembly for our parents/carers and told them everything we know about water. Everyone took part with either a speaking part or dancing, well done everyone.

For Enterprise week the children decorated stones using lots of colours, glitter, feathers and googly eyes to sell to the parents, they loved them! Some children also visited the fair and had a great time looking at the different stalls and activities. During Enterprise week the school nurse came to visit to talk to the children about why it is important to wash our hands.



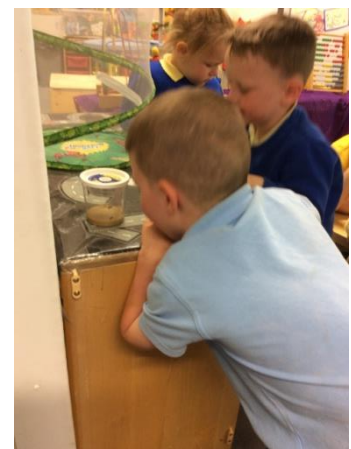
Our next visit during enterprise week was a police officer who talked to the children about how the police help us. The police officer brought in some police hats and jackets which we got to try on. Even Miss Penaluna and Miss Roberts had a go!



The police van drove around the school car park with the sirens on, it was really loud. Some of the children were brave enough to climb into the cage in the back of the van!



This half term we will be looking at minibeasts. The children have really embraced this topic and have taken part in a minibeast hunt outdoors in our minibeast area. The children are enjoying the story of the very hungry caterpillar and we have 10 class caterpillars which we are going to look after and observe them while they go through the process of turning into butterflies, it is very exciting!



This year has also seen the children develop their Letters and Sounds skills, moving

from developing children's listening skills early in the year to children being able to rhyme, hear initial sounds in words and now a lot of our children are making a confident start at blending and segmenting sounds in words.

All children have made good progress this year and have had lots of fun at nursery!

We wish all of our children a happy and successful journey through the next stage of their education.