Play & Learning Newsletter

11th – 15th Dec 2023

Nativity, shepherds, wise men, stable, manager

Wonder words to use with your child:

Our last week of the Autumn term – and what a fun and busy week we’ve had! The children have been completely absorbed in all things Christmassy playing in Santa’s Workshop and the nativity stable with the characters from the nativity story. There has been lots of cooking role play games in the sensory experiences with glittery (the eco friendly type) sand tray and white cinnamon playdough to create snow people. Outside has seen some super imaginative play with groups of children and the ‘reindeer’ bikes. The reindeer have been delivering presents, falling ill and requiring looking after by Santa’s little helpers. The labels for them have also encouraged some early reading behaviours and the children have been very interested in their different names.

The children have particularly enjoyed decorating, un decorating and decorating the Christmas tree over and over again. Great exercise for their fine and large motor skills and a lovely thing to do together. Also lots of problem solving was observed as they worked out how to reach high places and decorate the top of the tree on their own!

The highlight of the week was obviously the Christmas disco Party. It looked like everyone had a really lovely time and the children have been talking about it all week with their special grown ups and friends. We raised a huge £230.50 so thank you all so much for your support.

The children have also been busy creating their Christmas bag goodies which we hope you all enjoy. They chose which decoration they wanted and what colour they wanted to paint it. Your children loved creating them for you! Also they worked very hard to make their cards, firstly printing their hands, then doing their name inside before finally decorating their handprint tree for you. (We always use eco paper glitter and wooden or eco-friendly recourses where possible. Any plastic has been re purposed or given to us in the past. Quality street and roses wrappers are great for craft so please save them for us if you can. The foil or plastic wrappers are great.

We have also been doing lots of Christmas singing so we could sing to you all at our Christmas party. It’s been great for getting us all feeling festive and also great to introduce new words and rhymes.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** This week we took a break from ‘letters and sounds’ focus and spent our group times reading Christmas stories, talking about the characters and the reasons for why things happened in the story – developing those early comprehension skills. We also used the stable and props to tell the Christmas story in small groups. They also coloured their own reindeer, choosing a name for them and deciding what their favourite reindeer food was.

 **Out & About sessions:** This week we were not able to go out and about as we had two members of staff off. We had so many Christmas activities and crafts planned and made use of our garden to role play Christmas games we hardly noticed. Today the children role played delivering presents from Santas workshop to all the houses that they had made around the garden.

**Ideas to support your child at home:**

* *Enjoy them! Make the most of their excitement and belief in the magic of Christmas – it’s what it’s all about! Before you know it that time will go (we speak from experience ) so make the most of wide eyes and jumping up and down with the joy of it all. And remember – boxes and wrapping paper are just as fascinating as new toys so don’t spend a fortune on them – simple things are the best.*

*Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in January 2024!!!*

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