

# THE EARLY YEARS ECHO

Discovering our world, one day at a time...

February 2019

We believe children are powerful, competent and rich in potential.

We provide an environment that promotes creativity and playfulness encompassed in awe and wonder. We empower our children to become *curious* and *confident* individuals who are co-constructors of their own journey, and *researchers* in their own right.

We advocate *resilience* and independence through a challenging and inspiring environment.

We welcome children and their families to join us on our journey of discovery.

*I hope you have all had a fun filled half term break. I have thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine and been on several adventures!*

*I have visited Hamsterley Forest, Herrington Country Park and have been on walks up Burdon village. I have also enjoyed spending time with Mrs Whelam-Tate and baby Chester, we walked along Seaham seafront and had some amazing fish & chips! Yum!*

*Miss Johnston*



# *The Atelier*

*“The atelier is a place of research, exploration, investigation and a place where children’s theories and ideas are respected and valued”*

The exploration into ‘string’ has continued in the Atelier. The string game has developed into a the ‘languages of investigation’ as children have explored space and the planets. Those involved, have also created a series of illustrations of their creation.

Outside, developments have started on the ‘outdoor’ atelier, where children have



# Garden

*“The wider possibilities we offer children, the more intense will be their motivations and the richer their experiences.”*

During the holiday’s Miss Jones went on a shopping spree to Ikea (her favourite shop)!

She came back with a variety of plants for the children to explore and investigate. The children have enjoyed creating their own rota to ensure the plants are watered on a daily basis by the children. This has given the children ownership and responsibility of taking care of living things. The children are enjoying observing the changes over time.



“We could put numbers on the plants so we know which ones to water.”  
Annabella



“Let’s write our names on the lists.”  
Seb

# Snug

*“Our task, regarding creativity is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible no one can do more.”*

The children and staff would like to thank one of our grandparents for her kind donations of furniture for our snug space. We are continuing to develop our snug as a ‘homely’ space and we would be very grateful for any old furniture or any house hold items.



“I love our new stool and dresser.” Robyn



“Come and get your hair done and sit on the nice cosy seat.” Jacob



# Discovery

*“It’s not the answers that are important, it is the process.”*

In the discovery, the fascination of robots has continued. The children have designed their own robots using old computer screens and monitors. This has enhanced their learning and deepened their knowledge and understanding of technology and how it works.



“My robot is going to have some numbers on, I can see the number five.”  
Hannah



“My robot has to have this shiny thing on because that’s what robots look like.”  
Ebony



# Outdoors

*“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.”*

The sun has finally got its hat on! Our outdoors space has seen some changes over the last few weeks. Our poly tunnel is finally complete and Mr Hahn can't wait to have his breakfast in there in a few weeks. Any parents, grandparents or family members who have an interest in gardening or planting and would like to help us out, please let us know.



In order to keep you updated we will continue to send you our Early Years newsletter each month. Alongside the blog and your children's learning journals, which can be accessed at any time, we hope that you feel involved and that you are up to date with how your child is getting along. If you can think of any other ways that we can improve our communication with you then please just let us know as we are always looking to improve and strengthen our parent participation.

## Dates for your diary

7<sup>th</sup> March- World Book Day

21<sup>st</sup> March- EYFS Sponsored Welly Walk

W/C 25<sup>th</sup> March- EYFS Open Week

5<sup>th</sup> April- End of Spring Term

23<sup>rd</sup> April- Start of Summer Term



## Our Blog

Please check our blog to keep informed about our adventures and discoveries in Early Years. These are updated weekly and are fantastic way for you to see some of the things that have been happening that week. Why not have a look at this with your child?

You will find it at [www.benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk](http://www.benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk)

## Hidden Treasures?



Please keep an eye out for our 'Hidden Treasures' board in our EY entrance, where we are regularly asking for donations of things that you may have laying around and unused. We are currently looking for:

- Old tools, nails, screws or bolts
- Pots and pans/ kitchen utensils
- Real musical instruments (guitar, wooden or unusual instruments)
- Various sized pieces of wood
- A variety of materials
- Vintage scales
- Glass tank (to house insects.)
- Gardening equipment
- Plants/seeds

This changes regularly as we follow the children's interests and fascinations- so keep a look out!

## Creative Stall

We believe that creativity is just as important as literacy and mathematics.

Therefore, we have introduced the 'Early Years Creative Stall'. This provides children and families the opportunity to explore with the materials that are used on a daily basis! The stall will be open every Wednesday afternoon from 3.15pm and Friday morning from 8:45. All money goes towards new resources and enhancements for the Early Years provision.

## Chinese New Year

We have had a great week celebrating Chinese New Year. The children have been cooking up a storm in the kitchen and enjoyed curry and noodles. A

huge thank you to Geoffrey's mam who came in to support the children in designing Chinese lanterns and teaching them the meaning behind the lanterns.





# Beach School

If we can't get to the beach, then we'll bring the beach to us!

There could have been a little disappointment during group three's session this week, when the minibus wouldn't start...but we didn't let that spoil our Beach School fun. We made our own beach back at school and after they made their own pool, the children decided to make boats. This turned into a challenge to see whose boat would last the longest on the water. The weather was beautiful and we had a wonderful Beach School.



No way.  
The hundred is there.  
The child is made of one hundred.  
The child has a hundred languages  
a hundred hands  
a hundred thoughts  
a hundred ways of thinking  
of playing, of speaking.  
a hundred, always a hundred  
ways of listening  
of marveling, of loving  
a hundred joys  
for singing and understanding  
a hundred worlds to discover  
a hundred worlds to invent  
a hundred worlds to dream.  
The child has a hundred languages  
(and a hundred hundred hundred more)  
but they steal ninety-nine.  
The school and the culture  
separate the head from the body.  
They tell the child to think without hands  
to do without head  
to listen and not to speak  
to understand without joy  
to love and to marvel  
only at Easter and Christmas.  
They tell the child  
to discover the world already there  
and of the hundred  
they steal ninety-nine.  
They tell the child  
that work and play  
reality and fantasy  
science and imagination  
sky and earth  
reason and dream  
are things  
that do not belong together.  
And thus they tell the child  
that the hundred is not there.  
The child says  
“No way – The hundred is there.”

Loris Malaguzzi