

THE EARLY YEARS ECHO

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

October 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

Welcome to The Early Years Echo 2019-2020!

The purpose of our editions are to inform you about all of the exciting things that we get up to in Early Years and important dates for your diary!

The children within in Early Years have been getting up to lots of different and exciting activities this half term! From baking pizzas to coding their own game of dinosaurs and ladders! We have loved enhancing our outdoor area and building our very own fire pit!

We have had an amazing half term!

Children have had a very exciting October and have enjoyed exploring the outdoor areas looking at conkers, bugs and changes in the leaves .

Children have enjoyed baking chips and having an adventure to Morrisons to buy ingredients for their very own pizzas! We have kindly been gifted a drum kit and have enjoyed making our very own shows and performances



Save the date!

Dates for this Half Term

Beach school - Please see dates in parents entrance

Thursday 7th November – School disco Reception only

Wednesday 13th November – Basic skills in EYFS – find out how to help your child at home with Maths and Phonics

Friday 29th November – Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 4th December – Carols around the campfire

Wednesday 11th December – EYFS Pantomime

Wednesday 11th December – Carol Singing around Moorside

Friday 13th December – Flu Vaccine Reception only

Monday 16th December – St Matthews Church Service

Wednesday 18th December – EYFS Nativity performance of ‘Everyone Loves A Baby’

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas party PM

We encourage widening the childrens experiences and regularly take the children out within the local area. Sometimes we look for parent helpers at limited notice. If you might be available please sign up on our availability sheet in the entrance to let us know if there are any times where you would be able to join us. We can then look at this list and get in touch with parents and extended families directly to arrange this.

Any other pre-planned events will have a specific sign-up sheet and you will be informed about these via the blog and text message.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Please add us on Facebook to keep up to date with what children have been up to!
Please ensure all permission slips for social media have been completed and returned to the school office.

Beach School

(Full time Reception children)

Children who attend full time Reception will have the opportunity to visit the beach on a regular basis as part of our Beach School. Children will go to the beach with staff and parent helpers on our school minibus (1 group per week). Here, we will learn about our coastline, tides, natural and found objects and take part in a range of activities such as hunting for treasure, map making and rock pooling. Beach School was a huge success last year and we can't wait to get started this year with our new cohort of children. Please ensure when it is your child's session, they come to school

Our first term of Beach School has been a huge success and the children have loved taking part in our beach activities! They used a range of natural and found objects to create their stone towers. Mathematical language was rich with children discussing shape, size, weight and position. Children used trial and error when constructing and very quickly learned that big flat stones created the perfect base!



Our Beach Hut

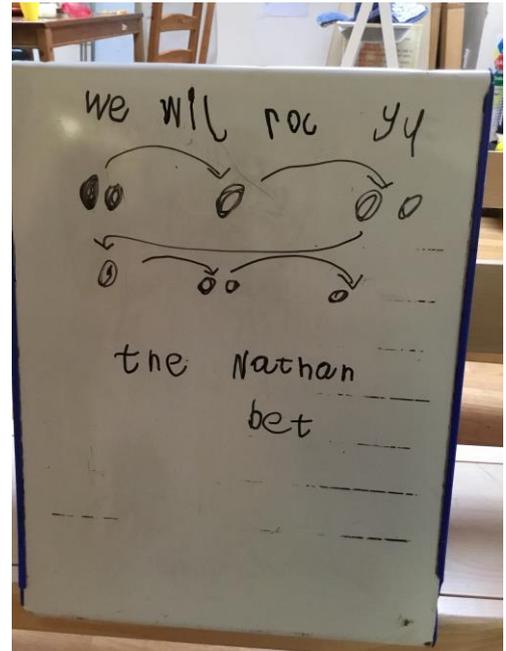
After the children's morning session at the beach, the children will continue their learning in our 'Beach Hut'. Here, children may wish to make sculptures with drift wood, make artwork with sea glass, create observational drawing from photographs of our beach or explore their findings from rock pools.

If you have any beach or nautical themed items hiding away in your loft or garage- our Beach Schoolers would be very grateful. This could be shells, interesting rocks, beach decor etc.



We will we will rock you!

The children have loved performing their favourite songs on stage this week and were even lucky enough to acquire their own drum kit – THANK YOU for the donation! They have thoroughly enjoyed using it as part of their performances. Take a look on facebook to see some of the children's fantastic renditions of their favourite songs!



Introducing coding

The children have been exploring the concept of coding this week, and with this they have followed a set of algorithms to make their own monsters. Children followed the same set of instructions to draw a monster with 1 face, 2 eyes, 1 mouth, 1 nose, 2 arms and 2 legs, and were amazed to discover that even though they had all followed the same instructions, their monsters were all unique. This was an introduction to understanding the concept of coding, whereby the children realised that in order to create a monster only the most important features were needed.



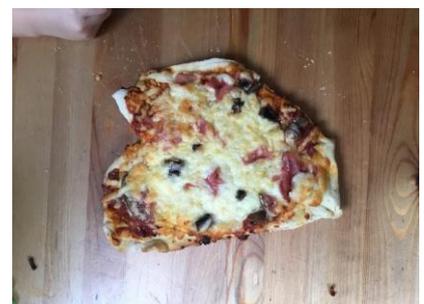
The death of a bird...

Whilst children were exploring the woods, children found two bird wings. We carefully picked the wings up and put them into a glass frame for the children to investigate, which led to a range of discussions and posed many 'big' questions for us to explore. We enjoyed researching on the laptop to find out exactly which bird they could have come from, and once in the frame we enjoyed creating observational drawings of the wings and talking about what could have happened to it.



A trip to Morrisons

Within the classroom the children had been talking about making their favourite foods and were very keen to make pizzas! We enjoyed a trip down to Morrisons to buy our ingredients. The children enjoyed looking up and down the aisles to find the correct foods and putting them in the trolley; we especially liked paying the cashier at the end! Big thank you to Lucas' grandad for leading the way!



Our visit from Christine Inkster

The visit was carried out by a Director of the Trust, who is also an education consultant. Visits were made to all classes in the school jointly with the headteacher and deputy headteacher to see how well pupils were learning. This was our amazing feedback we received following the visit!...

'Children enter the early years with skills and abilities which are broadly typical of children of their age. They make a very good start to their education and make rapid progress so that they are prepared well for entry to Year 1. Leaders and staff in the early years are passionate about ensuring that all children reach their full potential. They know each child well and this helps children to settle in quickly. Children behave very well and participate in activities with enthusiasm. They are motivated and interested to learn and listen carefully to adults and other children. They show confidence because adults take every opportunity to promote their self-esteem. There are very good relationships between adults and children and children clearly feel safe and happy in the environment'.

'There is a broad range of interesting and stimulating activities for children to engage in, particularly outdoors. The outdoor area has been further developed very recently and includes a polytunnel with seating, raised flower beds and a stage area and a beach hut which supports the school's work in the 'beach schools' programme. Adults have also implemented the forest school's initiative which children really enjoy. There are good opportunities for writing both indoors and outdoors, wonderful opportunities for art and creative work and children also enjoy cooking, for example, making bread. Activities are precisely and effectively targeted towards supporting children's language, phonics and mathematical development across the provision. During the visit, children were developing their key skills in number and adults moved children forward in their learning through their use of questioning and modelling the learning. Children are developing their writing skills well and those children who were observed writing had an appropriate pencil grip. There are many opportunities for children to develop their speaking and listening skills, particularly during family time when children share their experiences with others. Leadership of the early years is strong and staff work very closely as a team. They support one another and particularly staff who are new to the setting. Children's achievements are celebrated in attractive learning journals and adults take every opportunity to share children's achievements with parents and carers through Facebook'.

We hope you are as proud of the comments as we are!

Early Years Visitors

Any visitors coming into Early Years are kindly asked to go to the main school office, sign in there and will then be brought round by the office staff. May we also remind you that mobile phones are not permitted in our Early Years; either inside or in our outdoor area. We thank you for your support with this and we are sure you understand that the protection and safety of our children is paramount.



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:

- Junk modelling (recycling materials)
- Thick cardboard
- Tubes
- Egg boxes
- Children comics and magazines
- Tools (screwdrivers)
- Kitchen utensils

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

Thank You!

The support that we receive in Early Years; from parents, carers and extended family members does not go unnoticed. We are so grateful and more importantly, so are the children!

**Many thanks,
Mrs Whelam-Tate and the Early Years Team.**