

# THE EARLY YEARS ECHO

## DISCOVERING OUR WORLD ONE DAY AT A TIME



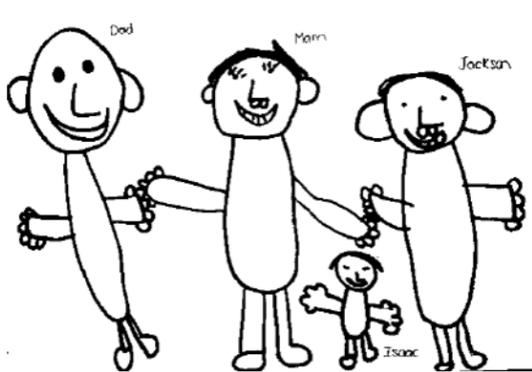
### Friendships

This half term, the children have loved getting to know their peers and adults and have enjoyed making lots of new friends. We value the quality time we spend together in our family groups, where we spend time practicing our speaking and listening skills. During this time, we have been learning all about each other. We have been talking about ourselves and discussing our identity and have enjoyed exploring families and people who are important to us. Thank you for sending in your beautiful family photos, they have been a real talking point for the children. It has been wonderful to listen to the children speak about their family with such pride and emotion.

Our celebration wall.... THIS IS ME!

## All about me!

EYFS OCTOBER 2020



The children have also used expressive arts to reenact scenes from their family homes and have engaged in a range of role play experiences. A particular interest within this area has been "Mummies in the kitchen." The children have enjoyed taking on the role of their parents and demonstrating their passion for cooking. The children have enjoyed using playdough to make cakes and have been very particular about the quality of their decorations! Conversations about this area have led to children discussing times of celebrations, such as birthdays, and why cakes are used to celebrate these special times.

Children have celebrated themselves and their families in a range of exciting and creative ways. Children have expressed themselves and their families through artwork and have created a range of media such as portraits and line drawings. Whilst composing their artwork, the children have learned the techniques of tracing and smudging when using charcoal, colour mixing using water colours and how to concentrate on details when creating self-portraits.



Family Photo Displays

## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

OUR FIRST HALF TERM

EMERGING INTERESTS

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

## KEYWORDS

**Powerful, curious, confident, resilient, competent**

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The children in Early Years have a great interest in dinosaurs. The interest has been so big, children now have their own areas of provision dedicated to exploring dinosaurs. The children have been learning about where dinosaurs used to live, what they used to eat (the children know the correct terminology for these groups) how they died and where their bones are now! The children have had great fun categorising the dinosaurs by their features and learning about different parts of the world and how this is different to where we live as well as hunting for our very own fossils!



The Dinosaur House



The Dino Hotel



This finding has led to a huge range of learning experiences ranging from research, observational drawings, creating spider webs and their very own clay spiders! All the children's work is on display in our polytunnel.

## SPIDERS ARE NOT INSECTS!

### THE STORY OF THE SPIDERS

A discovery of two enormous spiders became a huge interest for a group of children today. Their bravery was put to the test as they transported the spiders from the garden, and into a glass container in the polytunnel for them to observe more closely. They children shared their observations with each other and communicated their existing knowledge about spiders. It was lovely to see that all of the children demonstrated their understanding of the need to respect and care for the spiders by handling them carefully.

"Ah, cute little spider! I want him on my arm. Come on little spider." Robyn  
 "They've got very poisonous webs." Anna  
 "Ah I touched him. I touched his tummy."  
 "He's alive – I saw him move!" Oscar  
 "I want to hold the spider." Anna  
 "Let's put them in the polytunnel and keep them." Hannah

The children transported the spiders on rounder's bats into the polytunnel and decided to put them into the glass container so that they could observe the spiders more closely.

"Quick, put the lid on before they escape." Robyn  
 "Aw no, but they'll escape out of that hole." Anna

"Ah, maybe this!" Oscar  
 (Oscar took the lid from the other glass container and covered the hole in the lid.)

"Ah he's got little teeth look!" Robyn  
 "He got long legs." Oscar  
 "I want to call this one Fluffy." Hannah  
 "That's not Fluffy. That's Bobby!" Oscar  
 "It's Incey Wincy. He loves me!" Robyn  
 "The spiders nearly dying so we need water quickly!" Anna

"We need more water!" Oscar  
 The children began using resources from the garden to transport water from the tap to the glass container for the spiders.

"We need some food. I think we should get them some grass." Robyn

"Maybe spiders eat like tiny ants." Oscar  
 "We should get sticks for like a climbing frame." Anna

## Phonics and Maths... look at what we have been up to!

The children in Early Years have been very busy developing their literacy and maths skills!

### Phonics Phase 1

Phase One of Letters and Sounds concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. If you have heard your children singing new songs, clapping out words or offering words that rhyme, they are showing you their emergent literacy skills!



### Phase 2 Phonics

In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week, in the following sequence:

- Set 1:** s, a, t, p
- Set 2:** i, n, m, d
- Set 3:** g, o, c, k
- Set 4:** ck, e, u, r
- Set 5:** h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

As soon as each set of letters is introduced, children are encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words. For example, they will learn to blend the sounds s-a-t to make the word **sat**. They will also start learning to segment words. For example, they might be asked to find the letter sounds that make the word **tap** from a small selection of magnetic letters. Please help your child to practice these skills by encouraging reading at home.



### Maths

This half term, the children have covered numbers 0-5 during daily maths meeting. The children have counted forwards and back within these numbers and have developed their understanding of 1 more and 1 less. Children have used resources, such as ten's frames and part part whole models, to add groups together to find totals and separate a given number into two groups. Children have been investigating the concept of equal and using language such as greater and fewer to describe this. From looking at this concept, the children have also began developing their understanding of odd and even numbers and patterns within number. Children have enjoyed recording their work using numerals. A new addition to maths this half term has been 'maths in a picture'. This has been introduced to encourage the development of children's mathematical language, such as shape and position.



### THANKYOU!

As you will be aware, parents evening this year was different to our usual practice however, it was very successful with 97% of parents making an appointment!  
Thank you so much for your time!