

# THE EARLY YEARS ECHO

## DISCOVERING OUR WORLD ONE DAY AT A TIME

### WORMS!

The children have loved exploring the outdoor provision and today, a group of children were looking for and collecting worms to add to our new wormery. I sat down next to the children and almost immediately, they engaged me into a conversation, sharing their worm facts and asking questions.

*“Do you know worms don’t have bones?”*

*“Is that why they’re so wiggly?”*

*“Yes, that’s how they move. And do you know that they lay eggs and that’s where baby worms come from? Look!”*

*One child held up two worms and ordered them by size.*

*“This one is the adult because it’s long and this one is the baby because it’s small. We need to rescue worms you know when they get dry like this, that’s not good for them.”*

*“I wonder how we could help them?”*

*“If you put them in water they get sticky again, that’s how they like to be.”*



### Autumn is here!

The children have been very observant about their world around them and how their environment is beginning to change. **“Autumn is coming, it’s getting cold and the leaves are falling down. They’re brown and orange and yellow and they’re all falling down.”** Phoebe **“I always see spotty leaves on the ground, it’s because they’ve died.”** Orla



Whilst outdoors, the children had noticed some apples growing on a tree. We picked them and brought them inside to investigate. The children worked hard to cut the apples open to reveal what was on the inside.

**“Look this is a seed, it’s where apples come from!”** Aspen

**“The seed grows into a tree and then the tree grows apples and then you plant the seeds to grow more apples again.”** Rosie

**“Can we plant these Mrs Whelam-Tate?”** Phoebe

Discussion quickly turned to looking after and caring for living things – we talked about what we would need to do to look after the seeds.

**“We need to plant it in mud and water it.”** Phoebe

**“They need to go outside to grow because trees are big!”** Isla

The girls continued to dig the seeds out of the apples, some were collected to plant and some were used to decorate ‘autumn pies’ that children had begun to make.

**“I love to have pies when it’s cold outside.”** Phoebe

**“Yeah me too, my mam makes pies!”** Aspen

Discussions quickly turned to ingredients, food preparations, sharing their home experiences of cooking - autumn pies quickly turned into a wider range of winter foods. Children used one handed tools such as peelers to remove the skin from fruit and vegetables that had been added to the provision as a provocation. The children were very excited to use real knives and boards to chop up their ingredients as they made a magnificent feast!



**“I’ve made a pancake pie, it’s got apples and carrots inside. I need to cut it in half because it’s too big!”** Aspen

**“I’ve made a meal! Carrot and apple soup, fingers chips with carrots and seeds, and a stripy pie!”** Rosie

**“I’ve made a nice bowl of warm soup because it’s chilly outside. Soup makes you warm, I had some at a restaurant before!”** Phoebe

**“I’m making squirrel soup, I’ve used crispy leaves, apple peel and carrot peel and some powder that smells like nuts!”** Orla

**“I’ve made some orange carrots for you, there’s two on the bowl! There’s some orange flavour pancakes too, they’re orange flavour because their colour is orange.”** Aspen

**“My soup is carrot soup. It’s got carrot skins and carrot inside. I’m good at peeling carrots, I’m going to show mammy when I’m a big sister!”** Isla

*READ ALL ABOUT IT!*

**OUR LAST HALF TERM**

**EMERGING INTERESTS**

**WHAT WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT**

**KEYWORDS**

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

Munchkin pumpkins along with sketching pencils, chalk pastels and oil pastels have been this week’s provocation in the new Atelier space. The children have loved developing their observational drawing skills, paying particular attention to *texture, shapes and pattern, colours and contours, shadows, light and shade, and perspective*

“I see pumpkins.” Teddy

“They look like funny pumpkins.” Phoebe

“They got stripes on.” Phoebe

“They got green things on top of it.” Hollie

“I see a tiny pumpkin what is all orange.”

Rosie

“I see a orange pumpkin behind the green pumpkin.” Teddy

“I’m going to use my finger to smudge the green in.” Phoebe

**Phoebe demonstrated her understanding of how to use the chalk pastels effectively to add detail and depth to her artwork.**

“There’s black at the bottom too.” Teddy

**Teddy noticed the pumpkin was casting a shadow making the bottom of the pumpkin appear black, which he then captured in his drawing.**

“It’s got stripes on it.” Hollie

“It’s got orange bits on the bottom. I’m just going to use a little bit of orange.” Phoebe

“I’m putting lines on because this one has orange lines going down it, look.” Hollie

“The stalk is like a rectangle.” Phoebe

“The pumpkin is like a circle – it’s all round.” Hollie

**The girls used their understanding of shape learned in last week’s Maths meetings and applied it to their learning to create pictures.**



**SHOWBIE**

**We hope you have enjoyed using Showbie this term to find out all about what your child is learning in Maths and Phonics. Thank you for engaging and supporting your children’s learning at home!**



This term we have introduced the online game ‘NumBots’ for Reception children and we would like to say a huge thank you to the children who have begun to access this at home. We would, however, like to strongly urge those parents of children who have not yet accessed this platform to give it a go to help support their children boost their addition and subtraction skills from home. Playing little and often will significantly improve your child’s recall and understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts. These are critical foundations in Maths and so we are very excited by the impact NumBots will have for those children who are engaging with this game at home.

Logging In

The children have been shown how to login and have brought home a username label in their reading diary. They might need some help navigating to the website and entering the details, but once they’re in they just need some quiet space to get on with the games for 5 minutes daily. Please ask a member if the EYFS team if you are struggling to login. Unfortunately, Maths Circle (the creators of NumBots) cannot provide username and password information to parents, even during school holidays or out of hours.



WE ARE FAMILY!

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.



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, line drawings. Whilst composing their artwork, the children have learned the technique of tracing and smudging when using charcoal, colour mixing using water colours and how to concentrate on details when creating self-portraits.



Children have enjoyed taking on the role of their parents and demonstrating their passion for cooking. Children have enjoyed using playdough to make cakes for celebrations as well as lots of winter feasts! Conversations about this area have led to children discussing times of celebrations, such as birthdays, how and why we celebrate these special times.



# THE EARLY YEARS ECHO

Your trash is our treasure, please think of us before you throw anything in the bin! This half term, we're looking for the following items to enhance our provision . . . . .

Junk modelling

Nuts and bolts

Photo frames

Scarves

Dinosaurs

Safari animal figures

Wooden toys

Library

The children have really enjoyed spending time in our library. They have loved having the independence of choosing their own books and exploring a range of genres. Your child will be accessing the library on the days listed below, please ensure their sharing books are back in their book bag if they need changing.

Monday – Mrs Whelam-Tate

Tuesday- Mrs Briggs

Thursday- Mrs Lee