

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 13th November 2020 King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2020-2021

Issue 8

NURSERY NEWS

Hello

Another week has flown by and it has been a great one in Nursery. The focus this week has been Diwali and so the children listened to a story explaining what it was and why it was celebrated.



FOREST FUN

Following the story of Rama and Sita, the children put their wellies and waterproofs on and made their way down to the forest fun area. After looking at some beautiful Rangoli patterns, the children were set the challenge of making their own patterns on slabs, sheds, tee-pee and anything else they could find. Armed with coloured chalk, they set off and loved every minute of it. The end results were quite colourful and creative.

ARTS & CRAFTS

The children have worked hard this week to make Diwali cards, by cutting out a diva lamp and decorating it. The cutting was the tricky bit, but most children are improving with this skill and it really is one that they will need. We encourage them to point Tommy Thumb at the ceiling and keep Peter Pointer and Toby Tall facing the table. (Just in case you ever cut at home!)

Salt dough has been used again this week to make Diva lamps. The children used their 'Dough Gym' skills to roll the dough, pinch the sides and poke it until it resembled a small bowl. They then had to wait for it to harden in the oven before painting and decorating it. They really do look beautiful, so we hope you enjoy lighting them this weekend.

Autumn is a favourite of mine and it couldn't pass by without the children making Autumn trees, in all those splendid colours. Using their fingers and cotton buds, they have done the season justice and I can't wait to put them up around nursery.

Finally, the children had a go at flick/splat painting. Not one to try at home as it gets messy, but it really is a great activity and there were squeals of excitement as the children flicked paint at the paper on the floor!

LITERACY

The letter of the week was 't' and the children have practised its formation and should know lots of words beginning with a 't'. The Read Write Ink rhymes that we use to teach the children how to form the letters was sent home for you to have a look at, so you know what we are doing. As always, the children have been practising their names, both recognising and writing them and they have been listening to stories and speaking lots too.

NUMERACY

The children have been counting out objects from a larger group of objects. I chose gold coins to do this activity as the children love working with 'treasure'! This objective is difficult for the children as they have to count very carefully to ensure they only take the number I have asked them too. All the children were able to take 5 coins accurately, some 10 and others attempted 20 with support. The temptation for the children is to take an object but not count it or take it and then mis-count. Try it at home with any object you find. We also revisited 'less', 'more', and 'same as'. For some children this language is the barrier as they aren't familiar with what the words mean.

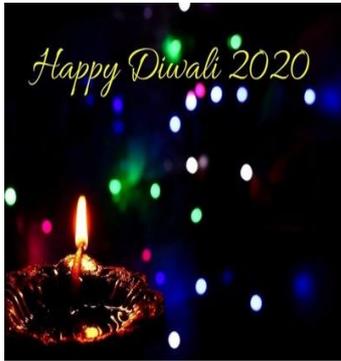
Finally, the children are starting to learn a selection of our favourite Christmas songs so that we can put together a little performance for you. It will not be the same as other years because of COVID-19, but we are determined to make your Christmas special with a singing sensation! More news about this to follow as it does involve technology!

Have a wonderful weekend with your gorgeous children!



RECEPTION NEWS

What a fun week we have had in Reception this week! We have so enjoyed getting dressed up in our party clothes to observe the special festival of Diwali. We looked amazing! We learnt about the story of Rama and Sita and found out that diva lamps were used to guide them safely home and that lamps are also used to symbolise the triumph of light over dark and good over evil.



In **Literacy**, we sequenced the story and even managed to order eight different events from it. Amazing! We then acted it out using character masks, trying to add as much descriptive detail as possible. We loved pretending to be Hanuman and Ravana in particular! We thought about special Diwali words and sounded them out, writing them on to labels which we stuck on to the sparkly firework posters we had created with pastels and glitter.

If you would like to learn about Diwali, this is a child friendly link. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-diwaliperformance>

MATHS

In **Maths**, we have been thinking about 3D shape, building on our previous knowledge of 2D. 3D is always so much harder as the names themselves are complicated and counting the number of edges and corners is more of a challenge too. The children tried very hard and could recognise the 2D shapes hiding within them. They printed all of the different faces on the shape, using paint. This helped them to understand that some shapes had less faces than others and what shapes they were. We talked about why spheres were so good at rolling but cuboids weren't. We then recapped work on 'one more than', trying to link this understanding with our knowledge of number lines and Numicon. Now able to form most of our numbers correctly, we then recorded our findings in a simplified number sentence. Fantastic!



TOPIC

Topic has been very 'hands on' with the making of divas using clay, glitter and gems. The children adored creating these and it is a good way of strengthening finger muscles and increasing dexterity. After the divas were complete, it was time to make Rangoli patterns, which are used to welcome people into homes during Diwali. There were lots of different colours of rice to use to sprinkle onto paper plates in a Rangoli pattern. We hope you enjoyed seeing what we had made at the end of the day!



After the excitement of Diwali, today for 'Children in Need' day, we decorated Pudsey bear biscuits. Phew! It has been a very active, fun and messy time!

With having been so very busy, your child may need a very long lie in tomorrow!

Thank you so much for your support with costumes and clothing.

NOTICES

You should all have received a letter saying what part your child is going to be in the Christmas presentation. We would love you to bring your costume into school as soon as possible so that it can be quarantined. Thank you! Your child may also have a line to learn for our Christmas poem. If you could practise this with them that would be fabulous!

UP & COMING

Next week, please could you send in a first class postage stamp with your child's name on. We will be writing a letter to Father Christmas and walking them to the post box to post soon.

Have a wonderful Diwali and weekend!

The Reception Team

