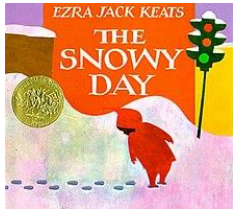




WELFORD-ON-AVON PRIMARY SCHOOL
NURSERY NEWS
 17th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have continued to learn about winter and in particular snow and ice. We have shared many books related to wintry weather.



The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. It tells the story of a little boy named Peter who has a day full of adventure in the snow. Peter wakes up one morning and looks out of his window to see everything covered in snow. Peter put on his snowsuit and went outside to play where he made tracks with his feet and found a stick to hit the snow on the trees. He wanted to play with the big boys who were having a snowball fight, but he knew that he could not because he was not old enough. So instead, Peter decides to




go and make a snowman, snow angels, pretended to be a mountain climber, and slid down a mountain of snow. Peter wanted to save some snow for tomorrow, so he makes a snowball and put it in his pocket, but when he goes to look at the snowball before bed, it isn't there. The snowball had melted. This is a great story to teach how it can only snow when it is cold outside, and that heat makes snow melt.






Following an in-depth discussion about how we could make ice, the children offered suggestions, but were also challenged to explain their ideas. We then carried out our own investigation to clarify their ideas. The following day, we revisited the investigation to discover we had made ice before playing pass the ice cube!

Everyone enjoyed passing the ice cube around the circle to discover change and begin to talk about their observations. New vocabulary was introduced and explained such as liquid and solid and the children were then given the opportunity to explore an ice cube using all of their senses to discover the properties of ice first hand.

Phonics

We have revisited and reviewed previous letter sounds and introduced the letter 'd' as follows. You can support your child at home, by sharing the support material below.

Grapheme and mnemonic	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase	Multisensory action
 d	Put your tongue to the top and front of your mouth and make a quick d sound d d d	Round the duck's body, up to its head and down to its feet.	Ducks beak – make action of beak opening and closing
 m	Put your lips together and make the mmmm sound mmmm	Down, up and over the mouse's ears, then add a flick on the nose.	Using fingers from both hands, make small stroking movements on cheeks
 n	Open your lips a bit, put your tongue behind your teeth and make the nnnn sound nnnn	Down the stick, up and over the net.	Pretend to hold a net and scoop it across the body

	i	Pull your lips back and make the 'i' sound at the back of your mouth i i i	Down the iguana's body, then draw a dot [on the leaf] at the top.	Move head slowly from side to side
	p	Bring your lips together and push them open and say p p p	Down the penguin's back, up and round its head.	Arms each side of body with hands sticking out, pretend to waddle like a penguin
	t	Open your lips; put the tip of your tongue behind your teeth and press t t t	From the tiger's nose to its tail, then follow the stripe across the tiger.	Make a claw with one hand and motion scratching
	a	Open your mouth wide and make the 'a' sound at the back of your mouth a a a	Around the astronaut's helmet, and down into space.	Use two hands to put on a helmet
	s	Show your teeth and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss	Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.	Motion the hand to look like a snake moving

Mathematics

In maths, the main focus for our learning has been to be able to look at a group of objects and know how many there are without needing to count them. This is an important mathematical skill that leads on to the development of calculating skills. This is called subitising.

We have been finding out about the composition of 4. This develops a deeper understanding of how four is made up. We used beanbags and a hoop to demonstrate the different ways that they could be separated, e.g. throwing four bean bags and counting how many bean bags were inside the hoop and how many outside the hoop. This was then articulated as follows; there are ... beanbags inside the hoop and ... outside the hoop. There are four bean bags altogether.

Forest school

It was a rather chilly forest school session this week, where we were able to experience winter first hand, and realise the importance of warm clothing. We explored the forest area, reminding ourselves of the rules, before going on a deciduous and evergreen tree hunt.

Please ensure that your child has a named hat, gloves and spare socks in their forest school clothing bag.

Creative Area

In the creative area we have been making sock snow people. The children now know how to make a snow person using a white sock. Ask them to tell you what materials they needed and what they did with them. Many thanks for the donated baby socks!

We have been finding out about a well-known artist called Yayoi Kusama, also known as the Queen of Polka Dots. She has always been fascinated by dots, which she applies to her art designs, whether it be through drawing, painting or sculpture. One of her famous pieces is pumpkins. We used this as our inspiration to paint dots on pumpkins we still have from the autumn. We painted half of the collection white and then decorated with cold colours, which we had discussed previously.

General reminders:

Clothing

Please name and add a big loop on **All** jumpers, cardigans and coats. **There are many items of clothing that have no loops or name.** A piece of ribbon can be threaded and tied through the clothing label. Hats, scarves and gloves also need to be named.

We will take every opportunity to continue to access the outdoor classroom and so it is imperative that your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves to keep them warm.

Illness

There has been much illness over the Christmas period and it seems to be continuing into the new year. It is therefore imperative that we all follow the correct guidelines for illness.

- If your child has a temperature they should not be in school.
- If your child has needed Calpol or similar during the night or before school, they are not fit to attend. It merely suppresses the symptoms and spreads quickly to others.
- If your child is ill, telephone the school office and give a brief message about why they will not be attending. This is particularly important.
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must not return until 48hours after the last bout of illness.

Finally, I would just like to say another massive 'THANK-YOU' on behalf of myself and the Nursery Team for your good wishes and gifts at the end of term. You were all so very generous.

If you have any queries about any of the above, please do not hesitate to come and ask.

Regards,
Mrs M Sims
Nursery Class teacher