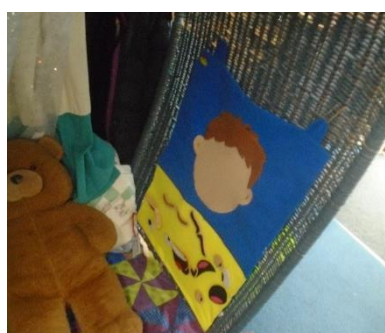


Orchard Nursery Learning Focus Share Summer 3

We hope you all had a wonderful half term, it was lovely to hear about what the children had been up to, although it now seems a distant memory.

Let us have a look at what has been happening in nursery...



We started the half term with learning about our different emotions, we talked about our bodies, feeling safe and unsafe and how amazing our bodies are in telling us when we feel emotions and when we feel unsafe through our early warning signs. We also talked about safe and unsafe touch and what we should do if we are feeling safe and unsafe. Children made a network hand, highlighting the safe people they have in their worlds, people they can talk to and share how they are feeling.

It has been wonderful to see and hear children expressing emotions, through their actions, drawing or saying how they feel. Also seeing children recognising how others around them are feeling too and showing empathy to each other is so fantastic.



We have had a delivery of new extra big chinks for the garden. Children have really engaged in mark making using the huge chinks and have also been using them in their play.



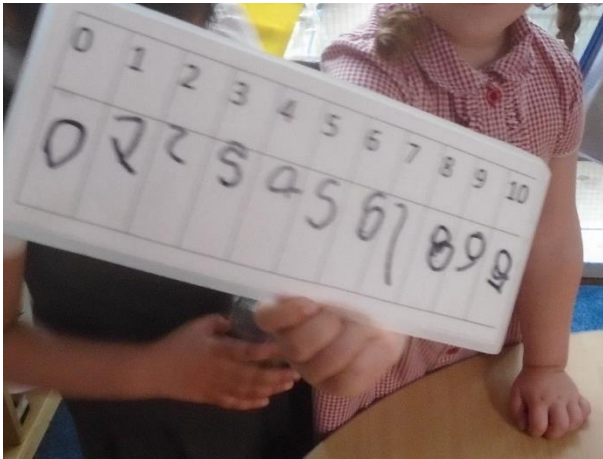
Our children have been building creative structures and sometimes with a purpose, using their problem-solving skills to reach a goal. We are seeing planning and evaluation of their ideas, adapting them if needed, to ensure it can deliver the desired result. The photograph above shows a child building something he can stand on to reach a ball stuck in the Willow, when asked if he felt the higher tyre would be safe to climb on, he said, 'no' but I can hold onto it. He stretched up high but still couldn't reach the ball, so found a hula hoop and used that to hook the ball out. We are seeing lots of problem-solving like this from our children.

The beans we had been growing in our family times, have now been planted in soil, in big black pots, by the children. Our educators have made a fabulous pergola for the beans to grow up and they are now beginning to spiral up them as they climb.



In the warm weather, children have enjoyed paddling in water, jumping and splashing to help cool down. Children practised how to take off their shoes and socks and put them back on, when they had finished, asking for help when needed, encouraged to have a go themselves first to help build their independence skills and self-esteem. They also realised it is a good idea to put their socks in their shoes so they can find them easier.





Some children are really beginning to take notice of the letters in their names and numbers around them, wanting to have a go and write them themselves. They show lots of pride in their work and what they have accomplished, and this then feeds into them wanting to do more. Watching children take these steps when they are ready and waiting until they show an interest is such a joy and really promotes nurturing a love of learning.

Our children have been building their fine motor skills through threading beads in pipe cleaners to make bracelets for themselves and for loved ones.



Children have really shown an interest in making bags, initially supported by staff and then having a go at making their own. They have been using the bags in their play, putting their work in them and to collect their treasures, such as things they have found... feathers, stones, sticks.



Our children were intrigued and curious about what the builders were doing, watching the deliveries of hard core and sand, then watching the different machinery they used to move it all. The builders helped nursery by cleaning out our blocked drain and they found the most amazingly gigantic worms. Children enjoyed watching them and used chalk to mark how long they were. They were able to make comparisons and use their mathematical understanding of size as these worms were much bigger than even what staff had seen before.





As part of the project work, some children have been learning about growing, they have been talking about the process of growing plants from a seed and then they planted Sunflowers and other plants...

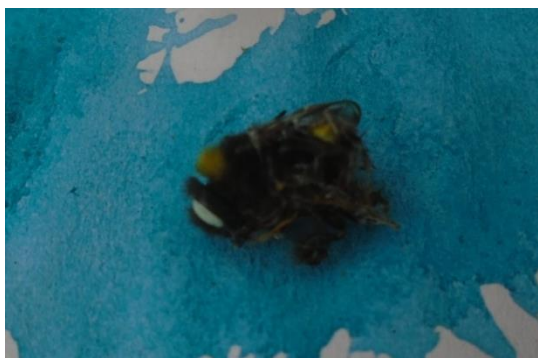
...they are growing well.



The sun has been out, and children have been noticing shadows. Drawing around animal shadows, then noticing their own shadows and each other's. They then decided to try and draw around each other's shadows, which was tricky. They have been watching their shadows as they move and noticing how they get taller and shorter. Then realising shadows disappear when the sun goes behind a cloud. Some fabulous observations, testing out theories and marvellous thinking.



Children have been noticing the growth in our allotment. Our potato, cabbage, tomato, carrot and broccoli plants are all growing well. However, our cucumber plant was eaten up and children have been noticing some of the leaves are missing and have holes in, so began to investigate who could be eating our plants? Children looked at what minibeasts they could see. They found snails, ants and lots of woodlouse, so worked at rehousing them to other areas of the garden.



Some children have been very engaged in finding minibeasts around nursery garden too, more children are looking for worms and are noticing other minibeasts around nursery and how they live. They found a bee that was covered in webs and thought of what may have happened to him, using what they already know about bees. They found a spider that had caught a fly in its web.



We have had two visits from ducks, a male and a female duck who came to have a look at what was happening in nursery. They stayed on the roof and children watched them with excitement. They particularly liked seeing their webbed feet on the roof. This sparked conversations of where children had seen ducks before and if they had feed them.



Our children have engaged with playing in the water with sea creatures, catching them in jugs and moving them from one jug or cylinder to another, understanding what holds more and what holds less. We heard lots of mathematical language of capacity, how many items they had and learnt to identify the different sea creatures.



Children have engaged in decorating playdough with gems and glitter. They have been making cakes, pancakes, pies and birthday cakes, playing out their experiences.



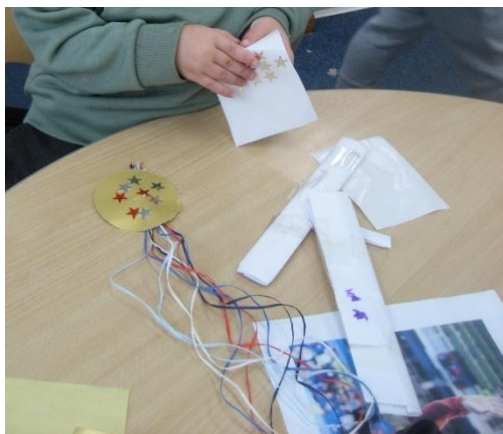
In the book room we have set up a shop to encourage role play and give opportunity for children to use their experience in play and further develop their vocabulary and maths skills. We used milk bottle tops as money, and everything has a price of 1 or 2 bottle tops. We used shop signs and brand symbols to give opportunity for children to share what they recognise. The trolley and baskets have been very popular, and it has been fantastic to see some children extending their play by taking their shopping items home and unpacking their shopping in their home and using the items they bought.



We have just had our sponsorship event of our very own Olympics.

We first learnt what the Olympics are, and some children had a go at making the Olympic rings.

Our children really loved making their very own Olympic torch. They used them in their play and races. Some children had fun making their own medals too. We talked about positions of 1st, 2nd and 3rd.



Some of the events children took part in...

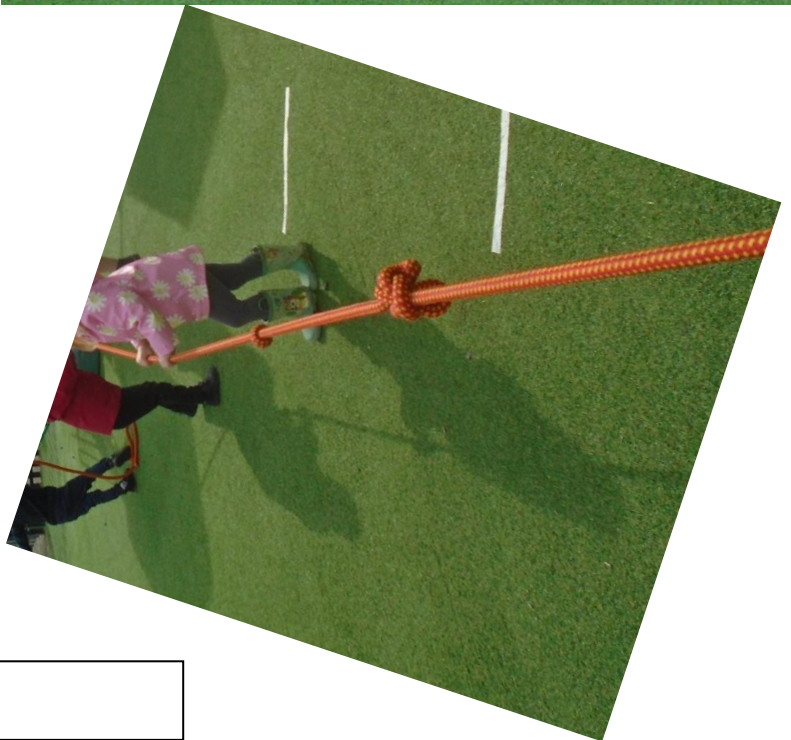


...egg and spoon racing, bike racing, running races...





...hula hooping, target throwing, stilt walking...



...balance beam walking, tug of war...



...high jump and long jump...

...it has been great to see children's physical skills, to see them having a go, helping them learn to be a good sport, understanding the wonderful thoughtfulness of cheering others on and understanding the importance of being fair. What has been amazing is being there to see children's perseverance in the events they found challenging, that resilience and pride they felt on completing the event was awesome and you could just see them beaming with pride.

Thank you for all your support and kindness in our sponsored event. It means so much and is truly appreciated. We have raised a whopping £1445.99



We have been talking to children about the special people they have in their lives and who they would like to celebrate on Father's Day. Children thought about the things their special person does that makes them feel happy and then made a card for Father's Day.



We were super excited to have a visit in nursery from Rachael from Daisy nursery, who brought in a very special little guy to meet us all. Our children absolutely loved meeting Rachael's baby and asked lots of questions and loved just watching him, seeing how he moved, looked and listened.