



Childrens House Newsletter

Summer Term 2021

Welcome to the Summer Term 2021 at
Children's House!

A very big welcome to the **Summer Term** at The Children's House, and my first termly newsletter as Principal of the nursery!



As you know, last term wasn't quite as planned, with a national lockdown and a nursery Coronavirus outbreak forcing us to close for three weeks! I'm so pleased that at last things are starting to return to normal again. With some of our staff already having first doses of vaccine, and lateral flow tests available, the nursery community seems much safer from infection.

It was lovely to welcome back Kirsty at the start of the Easter holidays, helping us to bring back all of the families who had been waiting for places.

Although starting out in my new role has been 'challenging' at times, (and came a little earlier than expected!!) I'm really happy to now be leading our brilliant team of practitioners at the Children's House. It feels like the nursery's getting back its mojo, after a long and very difficult year.

New faces!

Firstly, I have to say a very big thank you to **Tia Hammond**, who stepped into the breach last term and helped us to reopen to more children by joining us as Bank Staff. Tia's daughter Pacey-Lilie attends with us, and Tia kindly offered to help us with our staffing difficulties when we reopened. Thank you, Tia - you're a star!

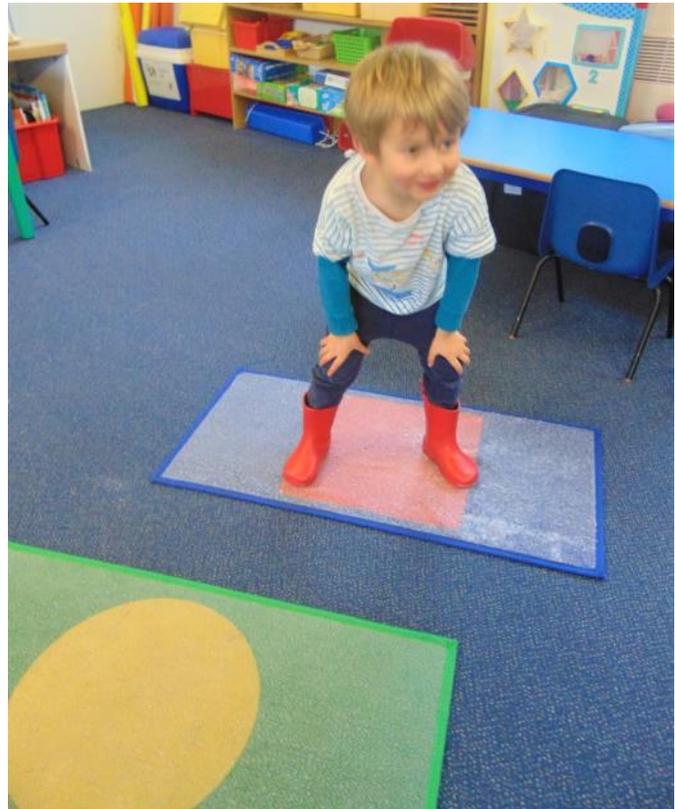
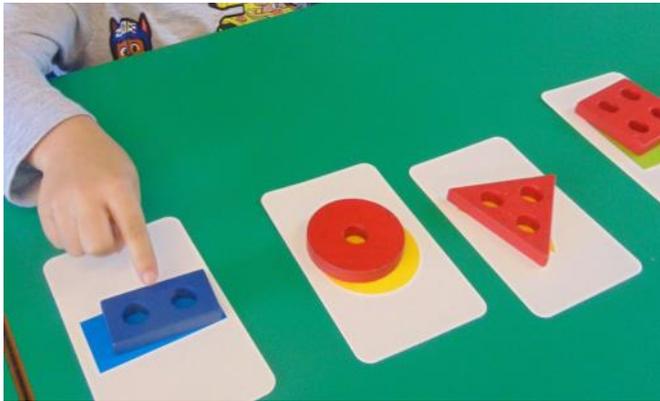
Claire Dorey, whose son Jacob will be joining us in nursery soon, has also been doing some cover work for us. Claire has previously worked with children who have SEND and is a big asset to our Bank Team.

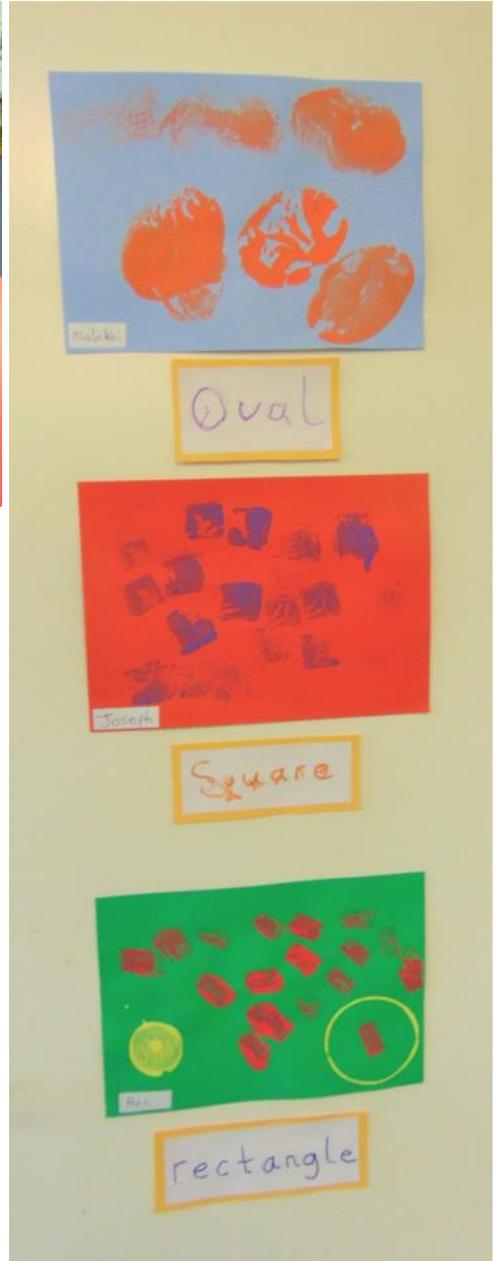
Some of you will already have met Tia and Claire last term. We're so happy they've joined us, and are really pleased to welcome them on board. They will be continuing to support our permanent team this term.

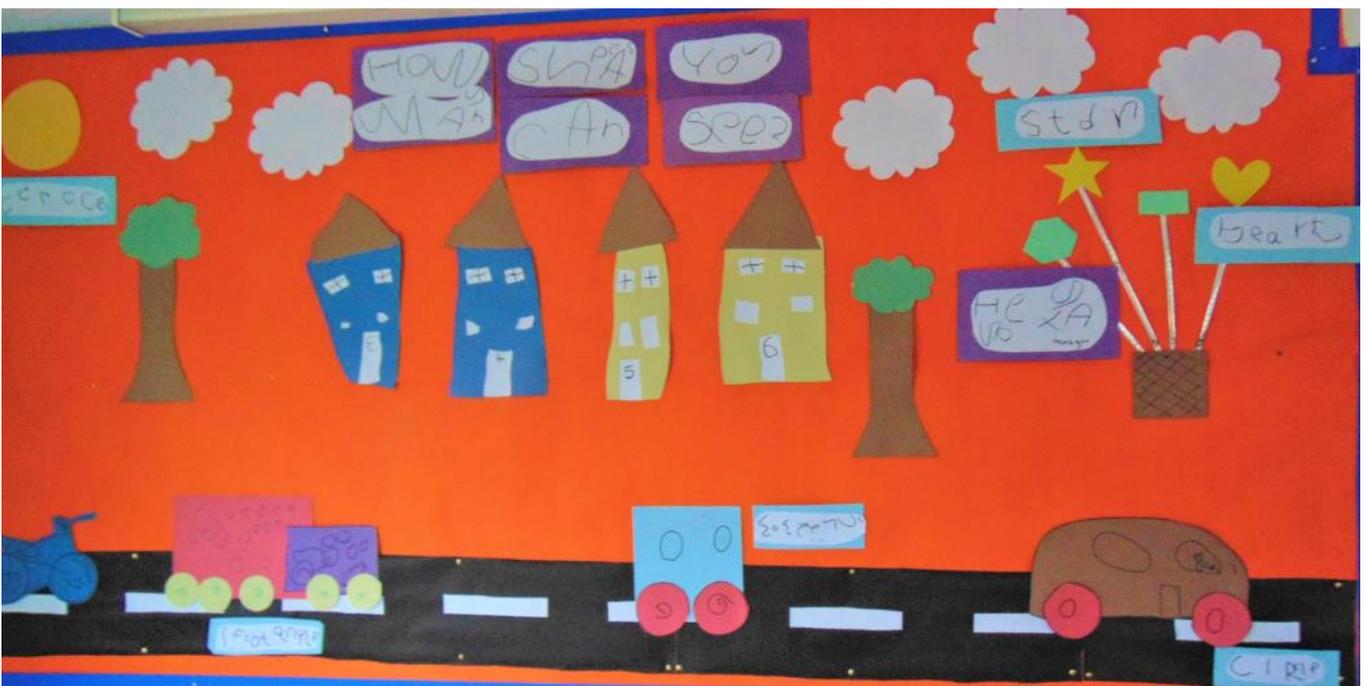
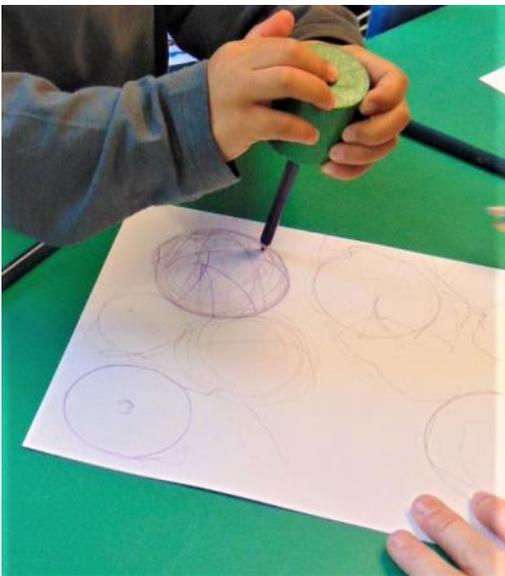
Also newly joining us in nursery on the 28th April as a permanent member of staff, is NVQ3 qualified Early Years Key Worker, **Christina Saunders**. Christina lives close by the nursery and her two sons attend local schools. She has over 8 years' experience working at other Dorset nurseries, including most recently St James Cottage Nursery in Wimborne. Christina has a broad knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and has been responsible for the care and monitoring of key children's progress in her previous roles. We're really pleased to welcome her to the team. I'm sure you will all get to know her in due course.

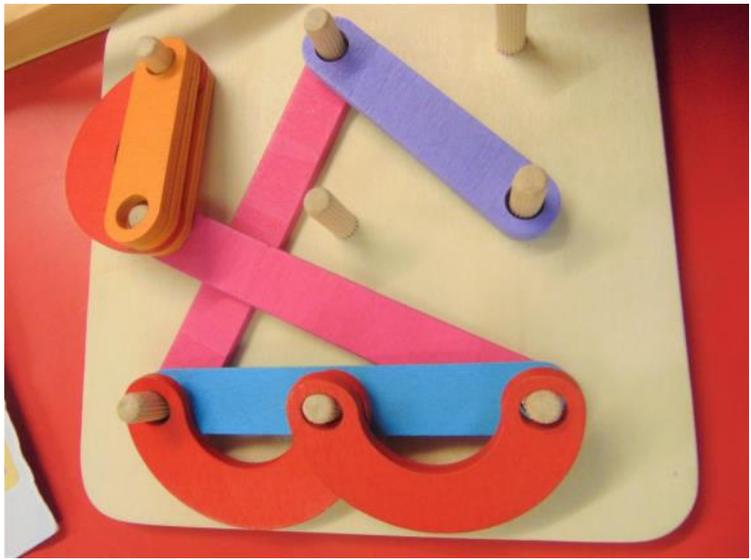
We tried to pack as much as possible into our children's learning during the weeks we were open last term.

Our project **Shapes, Spaces and Structures** was wide ranging and the children really enjoyed activities helping them learn about the shapes we find in our world. How we identify them, how they can be joined together to form structures, and what spaces are left in-between. The shapes of buildings make them easily recognisable.

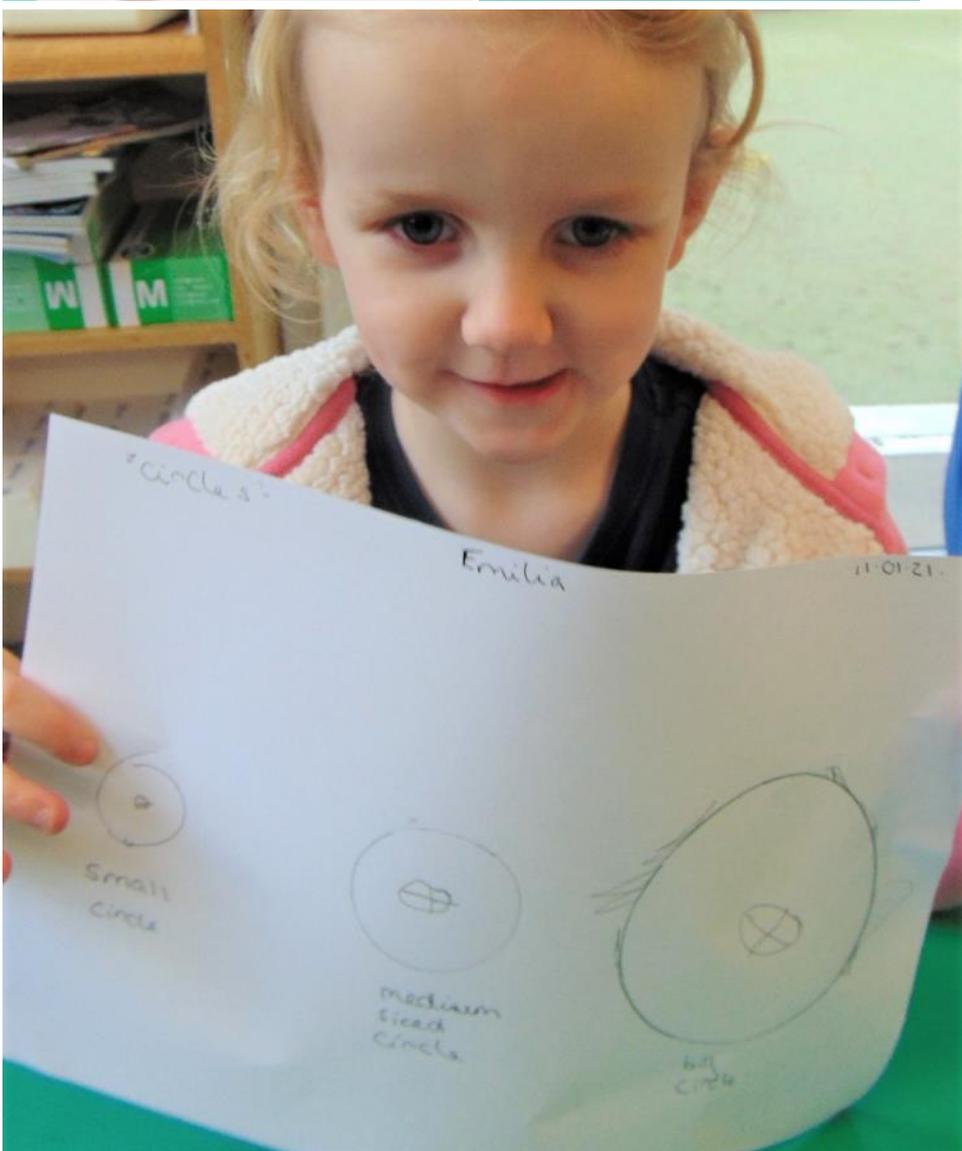
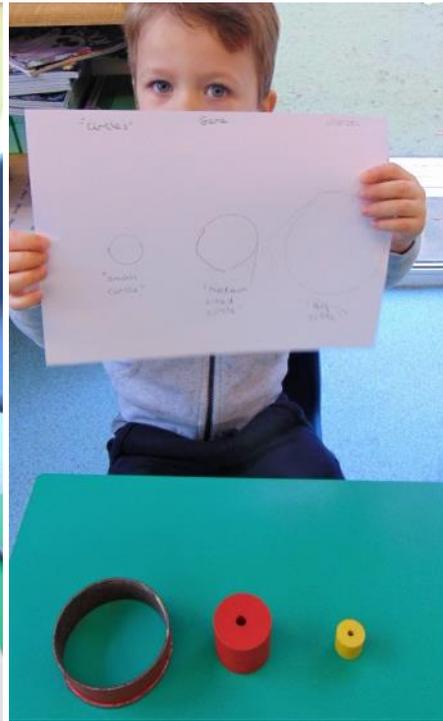








We talked about how shapes can be 2D or 3D, such as **circles and spheres**, and we looked at where we can see these shapes all around us. We compared their sizes, and found them everywhere indoors and outside.

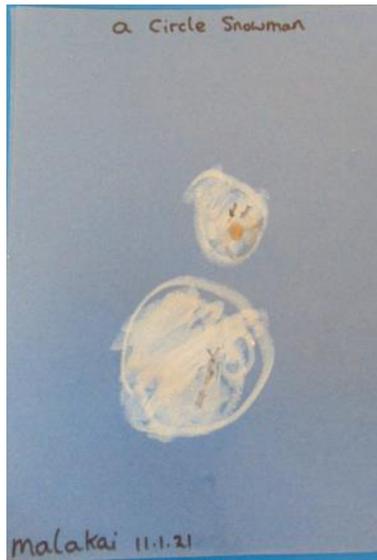




Our parachute has lots of big circles!



We made circular shaped snowmen artworks and decorated our own frisbees that we practiced throwing outside in the garden.





We explored the shape of, and painted with spheres, and blew bubbles...



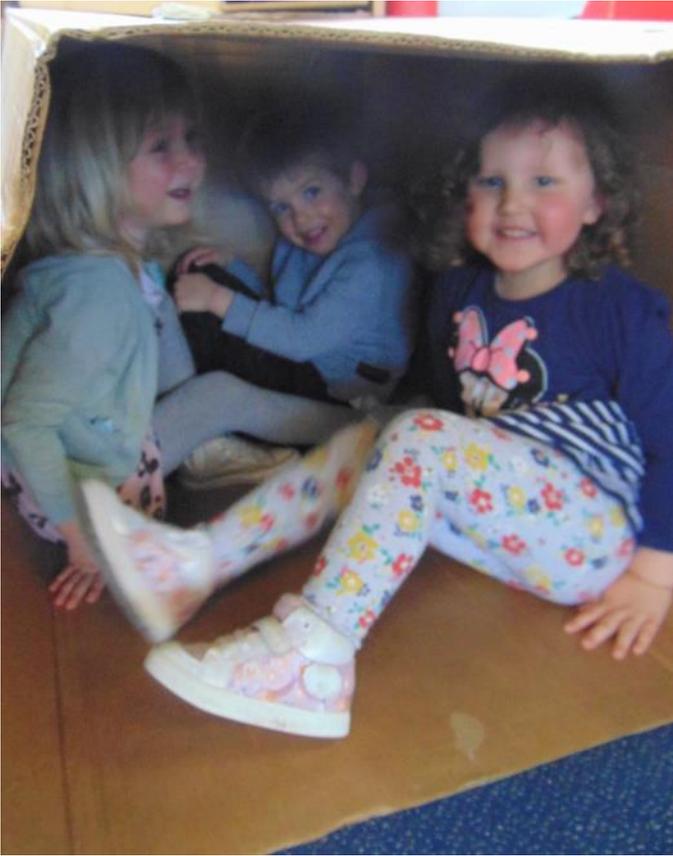




We particularly liked the **diamond** shaped kites that the children made.



Sometimes the spaces that are left behind by shapes are big enough for us to fit inside!



Our Montessori resources are great for teaching children about shapes in a natural way...



Recent research demonstrates that children's early spatial thinking predicts their mathematical achievement and understanding in later years. The key skills are visualising what shapes will look like when they are combined or rotated.

Early Years activities that encourage development of spatial thinking are **jigsaws and building**. We have a wide range of both of these types of resources.

Children are also encouraged to work collaboratively, as this has been shown to benefit both older children, who explain the activity, support and lead the younger child, and the younger child who is given confidence to try out new skills.









We had some particularly cold weather at the start of last term, giving us a great chance to talk about the winter, and snow and ice.

We made snowflakes and snowy owls and had some sensory snow tray fun!







Sensory play encourages exploration through touch. Children love to get their hands messy exploring a whole range of different resources.... especially paint!!





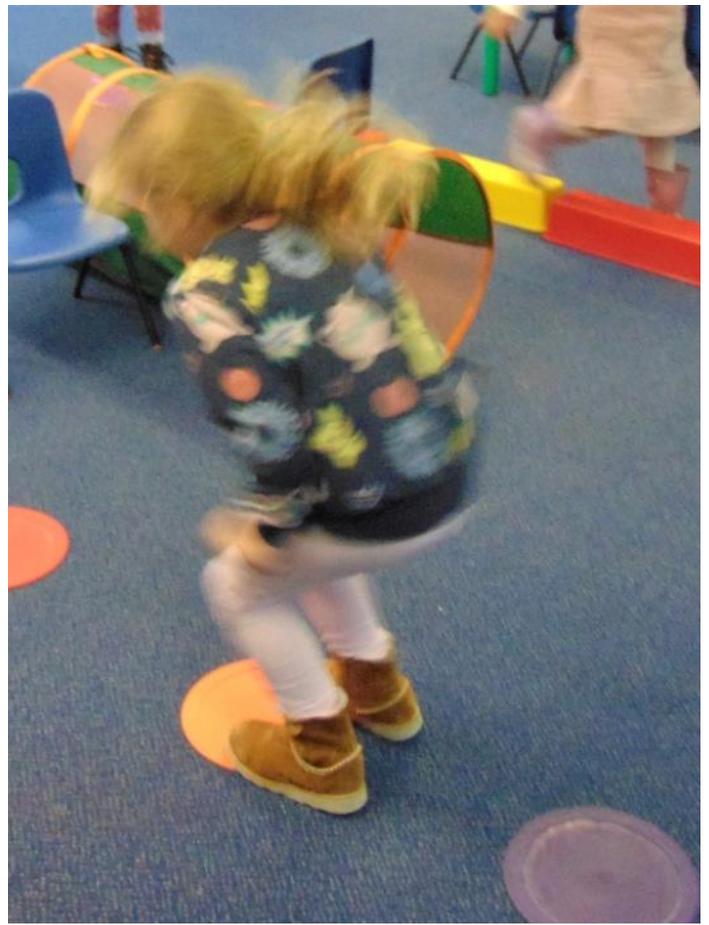
The cold weather didn't stop us from keeping active outside....







And on wetter days we had an indoor obstacle course to promote both physical and spatial development...



Simple yoga practice is particularly good for helping to keep children calm and focus on their inner quiet space, which is so important for mental health and also for learning.



We talk to the children about how they are feeling, and explore different emotions together.

Nursery is a safe, kind space where we encourage sharing and friendships.



Certificates of kindness are very proudly received by the children for kind actions towards their friends and teachers.



Chinese New Year is always a favourite on the nursery calendar during the Spring Term, helping our children to learn about the wider world and other people's cultures, celebrations and traditions.

Last term the children made Chinese flags and traditional hats and dared to balance on the dragon's back!!!



We also had a rice sensory activity in the colours of red and yellow associated with good luck in China.

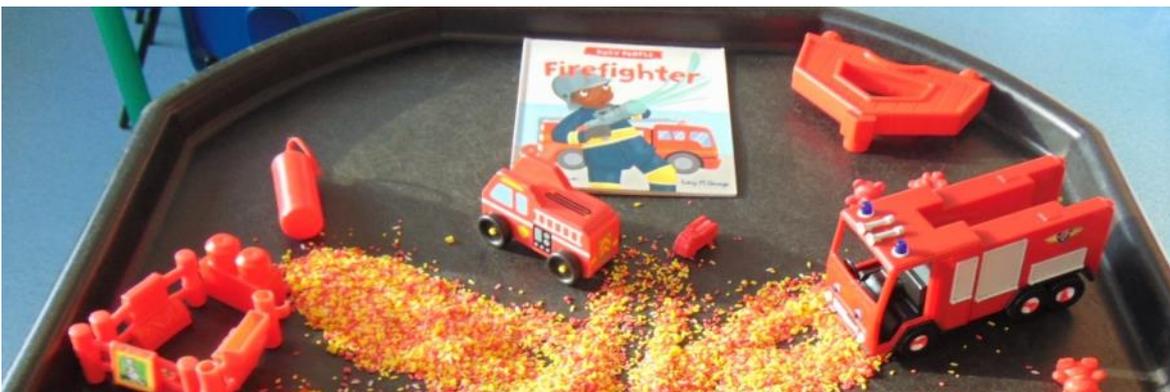


In March it was also **World Book Day** and we had a whole week with particular focus on stories and storytelling.

We went on a Gruffalo Hunt which was great fun...



Our teacher Marilyn gave us a brilliant sensory activity based on a story about a fire fighter.



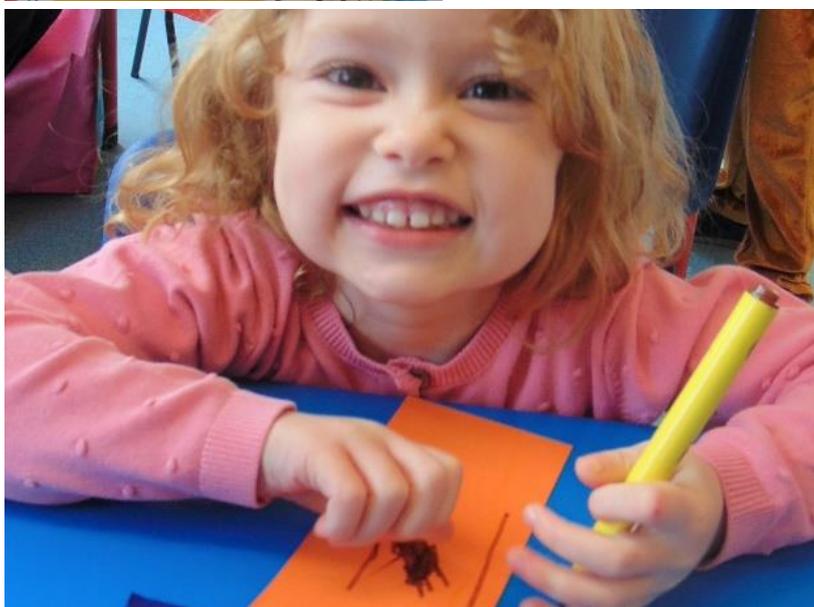


We loved making sparkly magical spells from Room on the Broom, colourful caterpillars from the Very Hungry Caterpillar, and especially liked the tiger from The Tiger Who Came to Tea!





We even made book marks for our books at home.

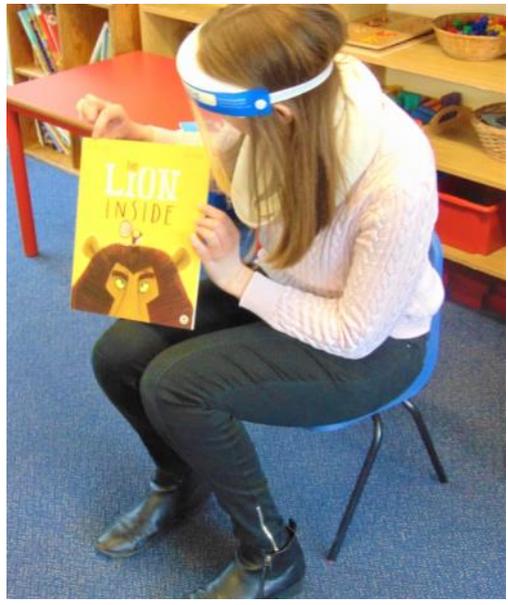


We made our own story books, created and listened to stories, and dressed up as our favourite book characters.

Thank you to all of our families for helping with the fabulous costumes!









Numbers and simple maths underpin most nursery activities encouraging our children to develop these early skills naturally through play.

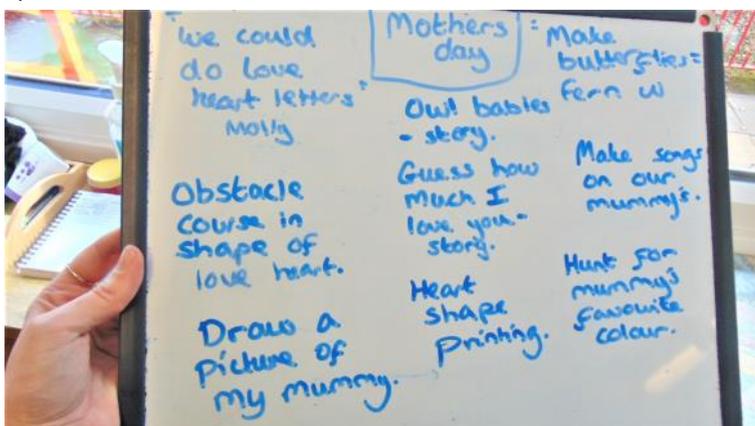




Measuring and pouring, stacking and sorting all help children to learn about size and quantity whilst also developing fine motor skills.



Last term there was also a very special celebration for **Mother's Day**. We had a lovely week focussing on everything we love about our mummies. The children did some great drawings and told us why she is so special. We hope you liked the special cards we made for you?





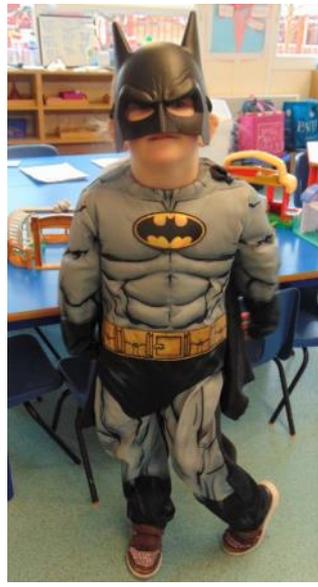
Comic Relief Superheroes Week!

One of the highlights of last term was seeing the children in their amazing outfits for our Superheroes Week in support of Comic Relief.

A really huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Comic Relief Go Fund Me page. With a boost of £100 from Mike and Che, we raised £280!!

There were some brilliant costumes - there's simply not enough space to include all of the great photos we took, but here's a good selection. You were all TOTALLY SUPER!!!









As the weather started to feel more Springlike, we talked to the children about nature's cycles and how plants begin to grow in the Springtime.



They planted cress seeds and we have been watching to see them grow.



The children also created some beautiful artworks of colourful Spring flowers using paint, collage and poster pens.



At the end of term, we celebrated Easter with some basket making. But of course, it simply wouldn't be Easter without something delicious and chocolatey!



Our project for the Summer Term is 'Planting and Growing'...



Looking forward to the warmer summer weather and discussions about healthy eating have inspired our project this term, which is all about giving opportunities for our children to grow their own plants, vegetables and fruits.

We will be discussing what makes plants grow and encouraging the children to care for them.

There will be plenty of great opportunities for arts and crafts that will complement our project, as the colours of nature in full bloom inspire our children!

For more information about our Planting and Growing Project, please follow the link to our website below:

[Link: Summer Project](#)



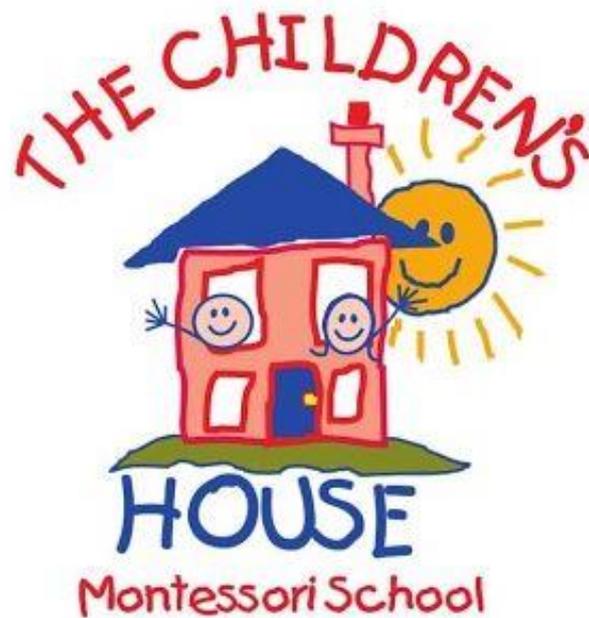
Parent Questionnaire

Childrens House Parent Survey 2021

Please take a few moments to fill out our survey. It's very important to us to know how you feel about the school.

You are welcome to put your name at the bottom of the form but this is optional if you would like to remain anonymous.

All responses will be reviewed by our principal, Stacey and the nursery owners.



We are constantly striving to improve the service that we offer to our families, and welcome feedback from our parents.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete our short survey and we'll let you know the results in due course.

This helps us to maintain our high standards of care and lets us know what we're doing right, and what we can improve upon. Thank you for your help with this.

[Link: Parent Questionnaire](#)



Some important reminders...



Starting School

This is an important term for those going on to big school in September. Once you know which school your child will be attending please do let us know in nursery.

We will be providing lots of role play opportunities to prepare our children for exciting days ahead.

We have a leaflet with some tips for helping you prepare your child for a smooth transition....

[Link: I'm Ready for School Leaflet](#)

Dropping off: To help us to keep drop off times to a minimum, if you have any important information to pass to the nursery staff, please send this via email to stacey@montessorinurseries.co.uk **before arrival**, or pass a note to staff on arrival at nursery. If you need to speak to someone in person, we will book an appointment for you to do this in the nursery outdoor area for a mutually convenient time.

Children must still be dropped off or collected by **only one person**. If you arrive with anyone else, they must wait **OUTSIDE** of Rushcombe school grounds whilst you drop off or collect your child.



Please remember that it's against Rushcombe School regulations to access the nursery by the steep slope leading from the staff entrance in Hanham Road. Parking is strictly **prohibited** in the staff car park, or in the area at the bottom of the slope, **regardless of weather conditions**.

Please be certain that **everyone** who drops or collects your child is aware of this rule to ensure the safety of all of the children, and maintain our good relations with the school.

Rushcombe School Rules are a condition of attending the nursery and can be seen by following the link below.

[Rushcombe School Rules](#)

Please ensure that the **contact details** that we have for you are up to date with any changes to telephone numbers, addresses etc This is **particularly important** during the pandemic as we may need to contact you to ask you to collect your child urgently if they develop Covid-19 symptoms whilst attending nursery.

The **term and holiday dates** for this academic year and the next are available through our website to assist with your forward planning.

Please note that term time attendance this academic year (2020/21) will be for **40 weeks**, rather than our usual 39 weeks. Periodically we need to do this to keep our holidays in step with Dorset's school holiday dates, which is important for families who have older siblings attending school. Full time attendance will remain at 48 weeks, with 2 week's closure at Christmas, and 2 weeks at the end of August.

Term time attendance will return to our normal 39 weeks in 2021/22.

[Childrens House Hours, Fees & Holidays](#)

For general information about the nursery here is our website home page address...

[Childrens House Website](#)

And finally.....

The summer term is always fun with lots of nature walks, gardening and wildlife in the warmer weeks ahead.

If any parents have ideas for things that we can include in our Planting and Growing project (or any other activities that would tie in well with the Summertime) do let me know.

Covid restrictions allowing, we would welcome your suggestions.



We're really looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Stacey X