



RECEPTION CLASS

Autumn Term



At the beginning of the school year the Reception children were busy settling into new routines, building new friendships and exploring their new classroom environment. We were delighted with how the children came into school and settled down to carpet time activities. The children were already becoming independent by putting their things away, getting ready at lunchtimes and getting changed for PE. Becoming independent is an important part of the Early Years curriculum.



At the beginning of term the children learnt about our class rules and the importance of good listening skills. They enjoyed initiating their own play and following planned play sessions with adults. Through their play the children have many opportunities that enable them to learn to co-operate and work alongside each other.



'Playing schools'

We also began our topic work, 'Ourselves'. In our topic work we found out about growing and how we use our senses to explore the world around us. We went on a listening walk, made a chart to show different eye colours, talked about tastes we like and disliked and explored the sense of smell!

'What is in the pot?'



The children have been actively involved in their daily phonics sessions. They have been listening to and appreciating the difference between sounds; exploring how different sounds are articulated and have been working on letter sounds. They have also been orally blending and segmenting words.

Good phonological knowledge is important for helping children to learn to read.



In October the children found out about Harvest Festivals and the meaning of the word harvest. In the classroom the children identified fruit and vegetables and discussed how and where produce is grown. The children were introduced to harvesting words, painted pictures of favourite fruits and vegetables, and enjoyed listening to and joining in with harvest songs. We also attended the Harvest festival at St Christopher's Church and took along our food donations.



We also found out about wheat and made



bread!

Number Time

Each day the children in Reception take part in number time activities. This term the children have been counting objects to 10 and beyond, comparing numbers and sizes, counting forwards and backwards and using number fans to mark the number of items in a set.



Learning about numbers



We have also made repeating patterns and shared quantities up to ten between two. We encouraged the children to recognise which numbers are odd.



Repeating patterns



Sharing the cubes between the puppets

This term the children have also been finding out about healthy eating.



The children have been finding out about what foods we should be eating and why we need to eat food. We have also been talking about how we keep our teeth and gums healthy.



'Playing crazy chefs'



After the half term holiday the children enjoyed talking about their Halloween parties. They enjoyed making symmetrical bats and card pumpkins.



We



also learnt about pumpkins after reading the story, 'Pumpkin soup'. We used our senses to investigate pumpkins and encouraged the children to talk about what they know about pumpkins.

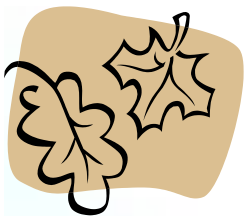
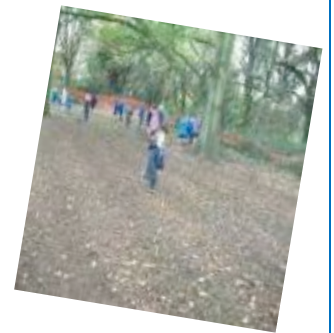
As a class, we then made pumpkin soup!



The children also enjoyed talking about bonfires, fireworks and firework safety in November. The children thought about rules for firework safety. They had a go at making firework safety posters, model rockets and firework pictures using chalks, pastels and paint.



We also learnt about Diwali celebrations. The children listened to the story of Rama and Sita and answered questions. They made masks of the story characters and made rangoli patterns.



This term the children have also been working as nature detectives, looking for signs of autumn in our environment. We went on a walk around our woodland area and explored the network of paths. The children were encouraged to talk about what they had spotted and record their findings using a simple recording sheet. The children noticed: leaves changing colour, food for animals, berries changing colour, leaves on the ground, seeds falling off trees and unusual things

growing.



Following our walk in our school grounds, the children painted a range of autumn trees using tree silhouettes. They also produced leaf rubbings using wax crayons.

We used the leaves and sticks collected to make natural tree collages.



