



## What have we been doing this month?

December 2014

Christmas has definitely arrived at the preschool. The children have really enjoyed taking part in lots of different activities including making Christmas pudding paper plates with real raisins, angels for the top of the tree and lovely bells made from paper cups. The preschool is a glow with glitter and we are finding it everywhere we go! We have some fake snow for the children to explore over the next week and if they enjoy it will take it into the New Year extending their learning by adding different resources. We have had lots of fun rehearsing for our play, Whoops a Daisy Angel and hope you all enjoy coming to watch us on the 19<sup>th</sup>, as well as being fun it helps the children to focus, listen and also share the experience with their friends.

We have also learned about Hanukkah, a Jewish festival, lasting eight days from the 25th day of Kislev (in December) and commemorating the rededication of the Temple in 165 BC by the Maccabees after its desecration by the Syrians. It is marked by the successive kindling of eight lights. The children made stained glass dreidels and did potato printing to represent the potato latkes eaten during the festival. We read Sammy Spiders first Hanukkah and talked about menorahs during group time.

We had some very kind and generous donations of ICT equipment from 2 of our lovely parents this month. The children are really enjoying using them and learning new skills as they explore such as sequencing, hand eye coordination, listening and following instructions, sharing and taking turns.

The children have enjoyed learning Christmas songs during group time and hearing Christmas stories. Both have encouraged them to talk about their own experiences of Christmas, their trees, decorations and what they will be asking Santa for. We had a lovely visit to the church and heard the story of the nativity and sung away in a manger. We had some positive feedback on the children's behaviour so are very proud of all those who attended. Can we also say a big thank you to Pete, Sally and Dom for giving up their time to come with us, we are very grateful 😊

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year and look forward to lots more fun in the year ahead.



Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. ~Norman Vincent Peale