



What have we been doing this month?

October 2014

Another busy month at preschool. We have been learning all about the following festivals:

Sukkot: a major Jewish festival held in the autumn (beginning on the 15th day of Tishri) to commemorate the sheltering of the Israelites in the wilderness. It is marked by the erection of small booths covered in natural materials. The children loved going for walks to find natural items and creating some fabulous works of art including our very own Sukkah. We ready Sammy spiders first Sukkot and Miss Estelle taught the children the Hebrew blessing Chag semach.

Diwali: a Hindu festival with lights, held in the period October to November. It is particularly associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity, and marks the beginning of the financial year in India. The children had fun making salt dough diva lamps which Miss Denise took home to cook and hearing all about Rama and Sita at group time

Halloween: the night of 31 October, the eve of All Saints' Day, often celebrated by children dressing up in masks and costumes. Halloween is thought to be associated with the Celtic festival Samhain, when ghosts and spirits were believed to be abroad. The children loved carving our pumpkin with Miss Sammy, they explored the texture and smell and decided on what sort of face it should have. They have asked to plant pumpkins at preschool.....we shall have to see if we have space!

Role play has been popular again this month, we have been hairdressers, teachers, sailors and mummies and daddies. It is lovely to hear the children adding narrative to their play, using props to extend it further and making new friends based on shared interests.

Paint, paint, paint....we have used rollers, sponges, hands, feet, conkers, leaves brushes and had lots of fun getting messy and exploring how colours can change. We have painted inside and outside and on small and large scales and have seen how we can mix media to create different results.

We are encouraging the children to practice writing their names and use their name cards to help them do so. We have been really pleased with the children's efforts and are seeing some fantastic progress.

Miss Alison is continuing her literacy sessions at the library and the children are really enjoying them. Please have a look in your child's bags for more information about what they have been doing and books they have enjoyed so you can book them out to read at home.

Miss Estelle has been taking some of the children to circuits, this supports their listening skills, helps them to follow instructions and also develop independence when they have to take off and put on their own socks and shoes as well as being lots of fun!

Miss Sam has been very busy getting hand and foot prints for the tea towel and Christmas cards don't forget to check your child's bags for the card proofs and if you would like to order some please hand the form back ASAP.

Favourite songs this month have

included Alice the camel and we're going to build a house

Alice the camel has five humps.
Alice the camel has five humps.
Alice the camel has five humps.
So go, Alice, go.

Alice the camel has four humps.
Alice the camel has four humps.
Alice the camel has four humps.
So go, Alice, go.

Alice the camel has three humps.
Alice the camel has three humps.
Alice the camel has three humps.
So go, Alice, go.

Alice the camel has two humps.
Alice the camel has two humps.
Alice the camel has two humps.
So go, Alice, go.

Alice the camel has one hump.
Alice the camel has one hump.
Alice the camel has one hump.
So go, Alice, go.

Alice the camel has no humps.
Alice the camel has no humps.
Alice the camel has no humps.
Because Alice is a horse

We are going to build a house with a chimney tall a sloping roof and a garden wall a big front door you can open wide and 2 tiny windows you can peep inside there's a table there big enough for 2 and 2 comfy chairs one for me and you so knock on the knocker and please come in for my pretty little house is shiny like a new pin

Activities you could do at

home:

- Encourage your child to practice writing their name
- Explore paints inside and out, add some washing up liquid to the

paint when you make it, this helps the clean up afterwards.

- Go out and about and collect natural items and make collages
- Take some paper and crayons and go and see what texture rubbings you can find to do, try tree trunks, bricks, manhole covers.
- Visit the library and look at both fiction and nonfiction books, take home a book your child has enjoyed during a literacy session
- Use household items to inspire your child's imagination and then