



Blackberry Lane Bulletin

January 2025



It seems such a long time ago, however this is the first newsletter of 2025 so we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the setting. We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and that Father Christmas was kind to you. The children all seem to have settled back into the setting, almost as if we never had been away. We would like to welcome the new families to the setting and hope your child enjoys their time with us. What have we been doing? We have enjoyed a lot of play both inside and out, group times, stories, messy play etc. The setting had a good tidy up over the break and the children seemed happy with the layout.



A member of staff drew some houses on the playground and the children talked about where they lived and added their house numbers to the drawings. Other children built their houses, using foam and wooden bricks. They were offered shaving foam to use as cement-this worked brilliantly.

During the first week back, Christmas was still very much a topic and the children were given boxes to wrap. This helped them develop their fine and gross motor skills, including a little maths-trying to work out what sized paper was needed to cover the boxes. They cut out used Christmas cards and made collages, again, this helped them become more independent when using the tape dispensers.



Week 1 merged into week 2 and the children were given the opportunity to make their own snowmen. They could cut their own circles out or use ones already prepared. They were encouraged to write letters from their names to use as the bodies, or to add buttons or make patterns. This helped their fine motor skills.



The Under 2s were given the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills with table painting. They appeared to enjoy making marks on the table with their fingers, hands or vehicles. The Preschool also undertook this activity, but they had to squeeze their own paint from the bottles, learning how to not over squeeze. A print was then taken of their masterpieces.





The Under 2s room set up a water activity in a tuff tray and the children explored the bubbles with their hands. Sea creatures were added to encourage role play and their vocabulary. They also decorated some pre made snowflakes.



We finally had some better weather and the water area was opened. This was welcomed by lots of children. They tested their pouring skills, measuring volume and weight. They added bubbles to the water and also utilised the pots and pans in the cooking area to make soups.



Outside we played ball games, taking turns with each other to throw and catch. The Under 2s set up some balancing boards for the children to test their self confidence and balancing skills. The preschool children designed a fire engine and took on the role of fire fighters.



The Under 2s had some sensory time, playing with the blue coloured rice. They also practised their fine motor skills, threading or picking up small shapes in their hands and glueing them onto paper to make collages. Whilst the preschool children developed their scissor skills making penguins. They also played in the Gloop.



The last week of January has been all about experiments, Lunar New Year and oral health. On Monday, an activity was set up using the pretend teeth, washable marker pens and toothbrushes. The children used the toothbrushes to clean the marks from the teeth. During this activity, the practitioners discussed the importance of cleaning teeth, and gave demonstrations. We set up an experiment using 6 hard boiled eggs and put each egg into a separate container with different liquids in. We used eggs because similar to teeth, eggshells contain calcium compounds. We prepared 6 glasses with 6 different liquids: apple juice, orange juice, red bull, coke, vinegar and water. We checked the eggs daily and on the 4th day, put them all on separate plates to see the effects of the different fluids.



Water



Coke



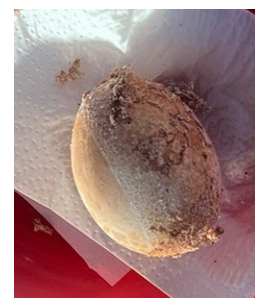
Orange juice



Apple Juice



Vinegar



Red Bull

Each egg was brushed with a toothbrush and the children watched as the staining came off the eggs. The children noticed that some of the shells had gone bumpy, changed colour, and the egg that was soaked in vinegar completely lost its shell and was soft and squidy! When we asked the group of children which was the best drink to have for their teeth - they all shouted, "Water!"



We experienced a lovely hail storm one morning this week and the children went outside to investigate. The following day we set up a tuff tray with large snow globes and porridge oats. The children poured the oats onto the globes and noticed it made the same noise as the hail stones had. The snow globes had tiny pieces of polystyrene in which, when rubbed, would jump around in the dome.



Another experiment conducted this week involved a pulley and several different items of varying weights. Your children were not content with just measuring animals and dinosaurs as they were too light. They hunted around for other items that would be heavier and more of a challenge to lift up with the pulley. Then as if the children hadn't had enough challenges for the week, they then challenged the staff during snack time. We had crumpets for snack and the children asked "why they had holes in them" and "what was in the holes?" To answer their questions, it was suggested that they visited the school kitchen and asked the chef Nikki. This they did and listened well to the explanations.



Term dates

Half term 17th to 21st February

Upcoming events

Thursday 6th March World Book Day

Everyone is invited to dress up as their favourite book character during the week.

17th to 21st March Comic Relief Week

There will be various fundraising events during the week. More information to follow.

19th March Beep Beep day

There will be a road safety message and activities on this day.

19th June Pirate Afternoon tea

Invitations and information to follow.

Friday 27th June Summer Fair

Monday 7th July Sports day

