

### Learning Journal 20.3.15

This week has been so exciting. We have been working hard on length and measuring. Here we are lining up from tallest to smallest in our classroom.



The children found out who was taller and who was smaller than them. We had fun and everyone was good at guessing where they might come in the line.

We have been writing our sounds this week and making sentences using finger spaces and sounding out our words. We have moved on from counting the sounds in a word to counting the words in a sentence, before finding the sounds. There is a lot to think about in this process and the children are working really hard to achieve it. We use a very structured approach to help the children develop good writing habits which will benefit them as they move through the school.



In the water tray we had some exciting little beads that grew into lovely shiny little gel balls. They were fascinating to watch and felt lovely to play with. Thanks to Regan's Mum for sending them in for us.





The younger children made paper chains to learn about longer and shorter and also to develop their spatial awareness as this is a tricky thing to do when you are young. They did really well and were very proud of their efforts.

Everyone made delicious sandwiches on Wednesday with Miss Pringle. They designed their own sandwich from a range of ingredients and learned about making healthy food choices while they were making them.



We have had some new volunteers in the unit this week. Miss Mills and Miss Williamson are hoping to go into teaching and have joined us to gain some experience. As one of our steps of learning is to be more confident around different people, we were delighted at the way the children welcomed them into the class and enjoyed working with them.

Today we had the excitement of the solar eclipse. The older children made projectors so we could stand with our backs to the sun and project an image of the eclipse onto paper. We watched as it grew darker and colder then took turns to see the eclipse safely reflected onto the paper. It was so exciting. At the same time Mrs Lakey linked up to a live feed of the eclipse at Kielder





Observatory and in the Faroe Islands where there was total darkness so the children could watch it as it happened. Afterwards we warmed up with hot chocolate at our eclipse party!

We have also seen some superb examples of co-operative play where the children really worked hard together and shared toys and resources. Outdoors they worked using big planks as levers to move the boat to look underneath it, and they have built some brilliant train tracks and models in the classroom.

Next week we have more exciting events.

Monday is parent's evening where we look forward to sharing news of your child's progress and showing you some of the great things they have been doing. There are still appointments if you don't already have one.

On Wednesday we have 'Get up at school day' where the children in Splash can come to school in their pyjamas and bring their school clothes with them. We will then go through their morning routine with them and by lunchtime everyone will be dressed, washed and ready to go. We will provide some breakfast as well but the children will probably need a small snack at home to keep them going until breakfast time at school. We have some new toothbrushes and toothpaste and wipes for washing but if you prefer your child to use anything specific in the morning please send it in with them.

On Thursday we would love you to join us for our Easter Service at St Maurice's Church in Ellingham at 6pm. The children are working hard to prepare songs and readings for you and we would love to see as many parents and grandparents as possible.

We finish on Friday at 3pm for the Easter holidays....Phew!

School and the Early Years Unit are open again on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.