

Learning Journal 16.5.15

This week we have been working really hard in our garden. Every year we grow food and flowers for the school. Josie uses our potatoes for school dinner and we grow other fruit and vegetables. We particularly like it when we are able to pick fruit or pea pods while we are playing and enjoy them fresh from the plant.



We started our seeds off indoors as it is still quite chilly and everyone worked to plant them and to write labels for our pots.

We then had to weed and dig the garden and watch our seeds grow. We planted them out on Friday and watered them well. Some children were a little disappointed that they did not have fruit immediately, so we are watching and waiting to see what happens. If anyone has spare plants that they are not using we can probably give them a home in our veg patch or planters.

We have had lots of enthusiastic artists over the past few weeks and some of their pictures are gorgeous. Here are a few children at work and some examples of our lovely drawings and paintings.





I am sure your fridge doors are full of pictures by now.

One area where children often have difficulty is using scissors. Special children's scissors are designed for young hands to hold and can really help children learn to cut out neatly. To avoid unwanted snipping of curtains or hair it is a good idea to provide old comics or magazines to cut out and of course supervise scissors at all times. However a lot of numeracy, literacy and creative activities involve some cutting out and children are more confident if they have practised these skills.

We found some alien goo in our new tactile trays and have been having great fun mixing, squeezing, pouring and spreading it all over the classroom this week.



In numeracy we have been using numbers to 100 to count in ten and to add by counting on. If you have time, practice counting in tens and finding the next ten at home. For example if you say 50, your child should be able to say that 60 comes next. If you have a large number of objects, e.g. beads or buttons, get them to group them in tens and then count them using the ten times table.

If your child is in early years, we are working to recognise our numbers to 10. Putting cards with the numbers on up the sides of the stairs is a great way to learn this as you can count forwards every time you go up the stairs and backwards on the way down, seeing each number as you go.

We also found the children struggled to identify poetry this week. If you have children's poetry books at home, please consider reading these sometimes as an alternative to a bedtime story. They are great fun and the children have loved the poems we are reading at school. If anyone has favourite children's poems, please send them in for us all to share.