

## Learning Journal 24.3.17

We have had a very busy time getting jobs done in our garden and in our classroom. We have baked cookies and planted seeds ready to plant out in our new raised beds. We have been sewing your mother's day gifts, which we hope you all found and appreciated the hard work your children put into their designs. We have made a fantastic museum and made dinosaur models and labelled all the exhibits for everyone to see. We even made our own fossils to dig up and put into the museum.



## Literacy and Phonics

We have been writing stories this week and trying to use story language to make our stories sound real and exciting. We thought about hidden treasure and where and how we might find it and some great stories came from our imaginations. We have also been learning to write and recognise capital letters and the names of letters rather than the sounds. In phonics, we are now working on using all the sounds we have learned so far to build words and read text.



## Mathematics

We were experimenting with flat shapes to make pictures, patterns and designs this week. We are thinking about properties of shape and how we know a shape is a square or a circle etc. This mathematical language is important to work on so that children can explain their reasoning in maths. We also did subtraction by counting backwards, which everyone found tricky and we have been practising writing numbers. Some reception children got past number 50.



At home try pointing out capital letters and naming them when they appear on packaging or signs. Although most of the children can sing the ABC song they do not yet recognise individual letters. Also read traditional stories to children such as fairy tales and folk tales which are rich in story language to encourage your child to become a young author themselves.

Other news.....we all looked fabulous on red nose day dressed in red and we hope you came to enjoy your tea and treats in the hall for Mother's Day. In September we had some caterpillars in class which made cocoons and hibernated. This week the second one hatched out. The first hatched during high winds and rain, but did not survive long in our butterfly house so we released this one into the spring sunshine with a chorus of 'Go well and safely' to help it on its way. It was a truly magical moment!

At Woodland Workshop this week there was so much wood from the high winds that we built a huge den to fit us all inside. Next week we are going to make a waterproof roof as part of our investigations into materials.

