



Playgroup News – Friday 07th January 2022



Hello Everyone... Happy New Year!! We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and managed to stay safe! It has been lovely welcoming all the children back this week..old faces and new! Here is our Playgroup News for this week...

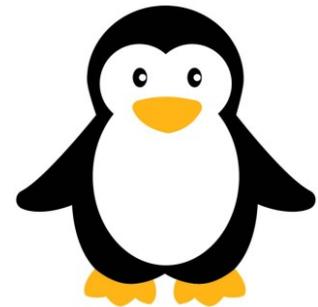
Look what we've been up to this week!

This week the Squirrel children have been exploring 2D shapes and making arrangements and models with them. They have been mark making on large and small scales whilst talking about what they had for Christmas! The children have continued to role-play having a picnic, using the baskets to carry their food items and setting up their picnics in the book corner- this has been a continuation of their interests from before the Christmas break.



The children have also been exploring music and movement using listening and action CD's, following the instructions to move in a variety of ways such as sitting, standing and jumping!

This week the Penguin children have been exploring prepositional language during story times and circle times. They have then been using this language in their free-play- prepositional language refers to where someone or something is such as 'under, over, beneath, beside.'

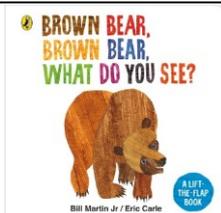


During outdoor play, the children have been using their imagination and their gross motor skills to make different sized ramps using the soft play equipment. The Penguin children have also enjoyed exploring a range of mark making activities where they have been creating 'Stop' and 'Go' signs, drawing portraits of their families and reflecting on their Christmas experiences.

There has been a keen interest in using scissors in the arts area over the past few days with children demonstrating some excellent perseverance in holding a scissors correctly and cutting a range of materials.

This morning the children have been able to extend their play in the arts and crafts area through the exploration of clay. They have used natural resources such as fir cones, pine cones and sticks to create their own models.

Please remember to check Tapestry regularly to see what else your children have been learning about!



Story Making

This term our story making texts are:

Brown Bear, Brown Bear- Squirrel Children

The Gingerbread Man- Penguin Children



This week our focus has been reading the story to the children so they are familiar with the text. Next week the children will be sequencing the story using pictures.

Important Notices



We are kindly asking for donations of any spare hats and gloves you no longer need for us to use at playgroup, as we are running extremely low! Please can you ensure your child comes to playgroup prepared for the weather with the appropriate clothing- all items to be named please.

Please can you return *our* spare clothes as we are also running extremely low with these items!

Please make sure your child has a bag that can be kept at playgroup with a few sets of spare clothes in- all items to be named please.

Thank you.



Book bags are available from the office for £1.50- we really recommend that you child has a book bag so they are able to carry home their 'share-a-book,' their drawings/paintings and important letters.

Covid-19- Changes to Guidance

Please see the updated guidance in regards to testing and isolation.

- From 14/12/2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.
- Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result.
- Changes to isolation for a confirmed positive case of COVID 19- If testing negative on day 6 and 7 using LFD then adult/child may return to the setting on day 8. If the adult/child continues to test positive on a LFD on day 6 and/or 7 then isolation must continue for the full 10 days- this includes children under 5.
- Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Adverse Weather Closure

As we are now in the winter months, there is always a possibility that snow could be on the way!! If we have to close the setting due to the weather, we will inform you via our Facebook page and by email. Please 'like' our page 'Coalway Early Years' for regular updates. The decision to close the setting will be made in line with both the infant and junior school. You can also listen to Radio Gloucestershire - FM 104.7 and/or Heart Gloucestershire (formerly Severn Sound) - FM 102.4; AM 774. They will give news about school closures. Access the Gloucestershire website to view the list of schools that are closed www.glosclosedschools.com- if Coalway Infant/ Junior School are closed then we will be too! It may be necessary for the setting to close during the course of the day. In that case, it is very important that we have emergency contact numbers; however we will initially send messages via email and Facebook in the first instance.



Dates for the Diary

- **End of term- Friday 18th February 2022**