

Last week the children were busy making a Christmas card design. In September?! I know, seems a bit crazy, but school arranges this so that parents can order packs of cards or gifts if they wish. We have tried to emphasise with the children it is still a long time until Christmas! On Friday the children had some free painting and next week we will be working with paint to create a green turtle or a blue fish.

Over the next few weeks, the children will be looking at portraits and facial features. You might like to talk at home about what you all look like - colour of eyes, hair etc. to help the children to recognise and talk about this. As well as discussing our features we will be looking at different facial expressions and what they tell us about how a person might be feeling. October 10th is World Mental Health Day so to coordinate with this, we will start some of our work on feelings and emotions.

Included below is some information about expected development for Expressive Arts and Design. You will see how the painting activities link to some outcomes for this area of learning, as well as how many other activities link to this area.

Thank you for all the baby photos that have started to come in. We are putting them on display for the children to 'Guess who?' This week we will start to look at sequencing, including ordering pictures of people by age (for example baby, child, teenager, adult, elderly person) and linking this in with the book, 'Once there were Giants', by Martin Waddell. This is an activity you might like to support at home looking at photographs of you from baby to now, or even the children from birth to now. We are trying to make links with years and the idea of time passing in years. This links nicely with the children learning the month of their birthday. So, this would be a good time to talk to your child about the month their birthday is in and the season they were born in, we have already been looking at this.

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy

Parents' Meetings

Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th October 3:30-6:30pm are the dates for Parents' Meetings. These meeting will be online. If you would like to 'meet' to talk about how your child has settled and is getting on the booking goes live tonight. You will be sent information on how to do this.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.
- Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses etc.
- Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park.
- Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
- Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.
- Join different materials and explore different textures.
- Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
- Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
- Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.
- Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc.
- Explore colour and colour-mixing
- Listen with increased attention to sounds.
- Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.
- Remember and sing entire songs.
- Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').
- Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.
- Create their own songs, or improvise a song around one they know
- Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.

