

# Grasshoppers Newsletter

This week we have continued exploring our **transport theme**, following the children's growing interest in cars and vehicles 🚗⚡. They have shown so much curiosity and enthusiasm as they've taken part in each activity.

## Floor Area

In the floor area, the children explored the train track and enjoyed playing with the trains. We have been focusing on keeping them engaged through fun **“ready, steady... go!”** games and encouraging communication using our aided language boards . This has supported all children to express themselves confidently, whether verbally or through pictures. Small-world train play helps children develop imagination, turn-taking, early problem-solving, and fine-motor skills as they move and connect the trains and track pieces .

## Messy Zone

In the messy zone, the children have been exploring **goop**, pouring water into cornflour and mixing it themselves to create their own consistency 💧👐. This gives them a safe, pressure-free way to experiment with textures and enjoy hands-on sensory play. We added cars and utensils so they could make marks, watch the goop fall and splat, and explore how movement changes the patterns they create 🎨🚗.



For children who prefer dry textures, we also provided a pasta tray with tubes and containers of different sizes 🍝. This allowed everyone to take part in sensory exploration at their own pace. Sensory play supports language development, confidence, emotional regulation, and early fine-motor and mark-making skills.



## Table Time

Table time has included a range of **transport puzzles** in different sizes and difficulty levels. The children have been really engaged and have all had a go at completing some of the puzzles—well done to our little Grasshoppers 👏❤️. Some children even challenged themselves with small interlocking puzzles, which is fantastic to see. Puzzle play helps develop problem-solving, hand-eye coordination, perseverance, and spatial awareness.

## Group Time

During group time, we created a different vehicle each day using paint, lollipop sticks, mud, and even tractors to make tracks 🚗🌟. The children enjoyed exploring these creative materials and listening to the song “**Down by the Station.**” We also continued our Stage 3 ball-run activity, where each child chose a coloured ball and sent it down the run 🟠🟡🟢. This supports turn-taking, colour recognition, and early prediction skills.

## Gentle Reminders 🧡

As you are aware, at the end of February, **Jess will be leaving Grasshoppers to join the Butterfly team** 🦋. We will miss her a lot, but please be reassured that we are working closely together to maintain the consistency, structure, and routine of the room so the children continue to feel settled and happy.

- Next week we will be using paint again—only a small amount—but please pop the children in nursery clothes to keep them comfortable 🧸.
- If you are running late, please let us know so we can prepare your child accordingly 🕒.
- If your child has experienced sickness or diarrhoea, please remember the 48-hour rule after the last episode before returning, as stated in our policy 🤔.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support 🌻

**The Grasshopper Team** 🐛