

Butterflies Newsletter

Week Ending: 6th February

Bird Explorers!

This week we are continuing our exciting exploration of birds . The children have been enjoying learning about different species, listening to bird songs  and spotting birds around our outdoor areas  . The children have loved checking our outdoor area and have been very excited to see birds enjoying the **bird cakes** they made last week. We've spotted birds swooping in for a snack and the children have been chatting about which birds they think are visiting  . It's been a wonderful way to help them feel connected to nature and proud of their creations! 

Home Zone

In the home zone, we have been continuing to build on the skills the children learned while threading beads. This week, they have used those same fine-motor skills to make **more bird feeders** using **pipe cleaners and cereal hoops**   .

The children have also been busy making their own **birds out of playdough and feathers**  . They have enjoyed adding real feathers to bring their birds to life.

Homemade Playdough Recipe

Why not try making your own playdough at home? It's quick, easy, and perfect for creative play!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1–2 cups boiling water (added gradually)
- Food colouring (optional)

Instructions:

1. Mix the flour, salt, oil, and cream of tartar in a large bowl.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring to the boiling water.
3. Slowly pour the coloured water into the dry ingredients, stirring well.
4. When it begins to form a dough, knead it on a clean surface until smooth.
5. If too sticky, add a little more flour; if too dry, add a splash more warm water.

6. Store your playdough in an airtight container to keep it soft for weeks.

Messy Zone

Exploring Colour Mixing with Primary Colours

This week the children have been busy experimenting with paint and discovering the magic of colour mixing. Using the three primary colours-red,blue and yellow, they explored how new colours appear when two or even all three are blended together. The activity encouraged curiosity, prediction and lots of joyful “Wow!” moments as the children noticed changes happening right in front of them. They tested ideas, compared shades and proudly shared their discoveries with friends.

We loved seeing their excitement as they created greens, oranges, purples and plenty of unique shades in between. Colour mixing is a wonderful way for children to develop early scientific thinking and creativity. It gives them the freedom to express themselves and make choices about how they want their artwork to look.

Movement Zone

In the **Movement Zone**, the children have been busy creating their own bird-inspired structures using blocks and loose parts . They've built nests and birdhouses using their problem-solving skills and creativity, while giving the children a fun way to explore how birds live and the kind of homes they need .The children have also been busy making their own **binoculars** to help them spot birds in the garden! They used **toilet rolls, string, and sellotape** to create their designs .

They were very proud of their creations and enjoyed using them during our bird-watching activities, looking closely for any feathered visitors .

This weeks Story's-

- **Squirrels**- Oola the Owl who lost her hoot! And a selection of bird stories.
- **Hedgehogs**- Nature Detective, Peepo and The Hen House.
- **Rabbits**- Making a bird by dropping feathers and making a colourful peacock!
- **Badgers**- A book about the sounds you hear in the garden.
- **Foxes**- Farmer in the dell.
- **Owls**- Continuing with the robin's journey.

Questions or Comments?

Please speak to your child's key person or email Steph at S.Venier@lanterns.hants.sch.uk and your message will be passed on.

**Warm regards,
The Butterflies Team**