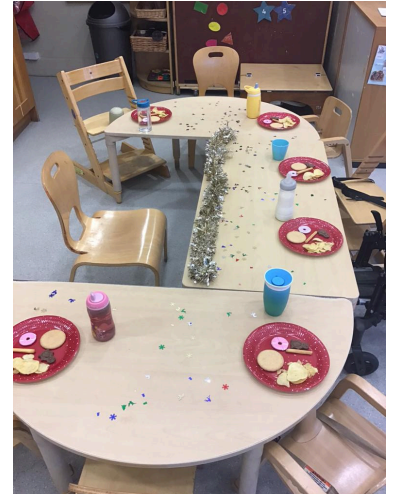


# ☀️ Grasshoppers Weekly Newsletter

## Half Term Highlights & Christmas Cheer

Wow—what a fantastic half term! Can you believe it's already the end of the year? We've had the best start to Grasshoppers and a truly wonderful finish to the school year.



## 🎄 Christmas Activities & Development This Week

✨ **Table Area – Play Dough Exploration** The children have loved exploring the play dough station.

- Some enjoyed pressing and squishing the dough with their fingers.
- Others experimented with rolling and shaping, using cutters to create festive designs.

### Developmental Benefits:

- Strengthens fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Encourages creativity and imagination.
- Builds focus and perseverance through making and remaking shapes.



✨ **Messy Zone – Shaving Foam Fun** With utensils in hand, the children splatted, scooped, and transported foam into bowls and tubs.

- They immersed themselves fully in the experience.
- We heard joyful language repeated from group time: “Ready, steady... SPLAT!” and “Wow!”

### Developmental Benefits:

- Supports sensory development and body awareness.
- Enhances language skills through repetition and playful communication.
- Builds confidence in experimenting with textures and tools.



✨ **Floor Area – Snowy Scene Play** We created a snowy scene using flour, cars, and bricks.

- Community bricks from last week were reused, encouraging extended play.
- Play people and cars were added to reflect the children's current interests.

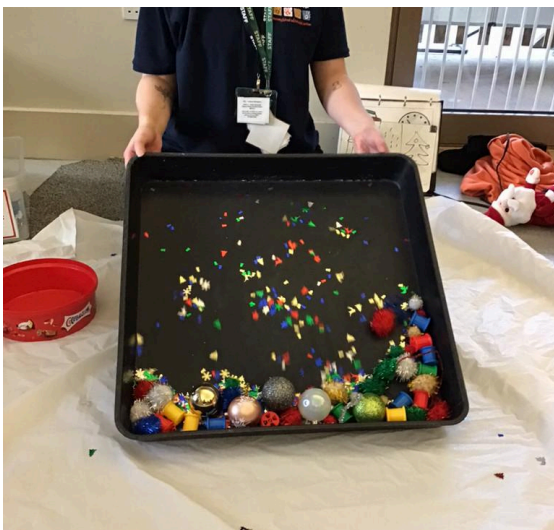
#### **Developmental Benefits:**

- Encourages imaginative storytelling and role play.
- Strengthens problem-solving and spatial awareness through building.
- Promotes social skills as children share resources and ideas.



#### ✨ **Group Time – Awe & Anticipation**

- *Stage 2:* Fake snow and Christmassy materials dropped from above—children watched in awe, smiling with excitement.
- *Stage 3:* Children stood on stools and jumped off, celebrating with claps and laughter. Even those who preferred sitting still anticipated the jump with delight!



#### **Developmental Benefits:**

- Builds gross motor skills and balance through jumping activities.
- Supports emotional development by managing anticipation and excitement.
- Encourages self-confidence and resilience when trying new experiences.

### 💖 **Reflections & Gratitude**

We are beyond proud of how the children have settled this year—their progress, their joy, and the relationships we've built together. Thank you for your patience with the changes at the start of the year, which allowed us to create strong foundations for every child.

The Christmas sing-along was a fantastic experience, and we couldn't be prouder of how the children embraced the change with confidence and smiles.

### 🎅 **Holiday Wishes**

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday, 5th January**.