

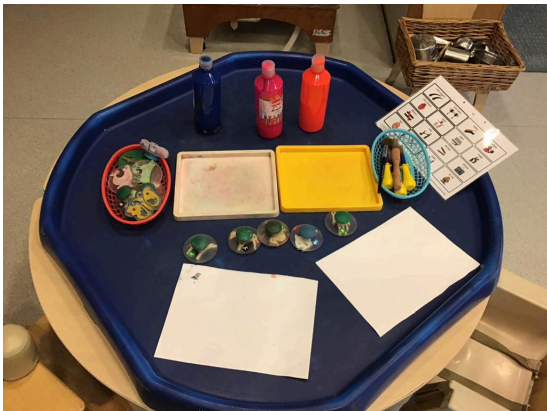
# Grasshoppers Weekly Newsletter

*A week full of curiosity, creativity, and winter wonder!*

## Our Focus Story: *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?*

With the snowy weather still fresh in everyone's minds, we continued exploring winter animals through this much-loved story. The children have been captivated by the sounds, movements, and textures linked to the animals in the book through the activities we have provided.

### Messy Zone



This week we encouraged independence by giving the children full control over their creative materials.

Instead of the adults getting the entire tray ready we allowed the children to make it their own.

They chose and squeezed their own paint, chose their tools, and explored freely using:

- Animal stamps
- Paintbrushes
- A wide range of utensils from our continuous provision basket
- Some of the children enjoyed bringing in different objects like the cars, stones and animals, painting on them and using them to stamp to create different marks.

#### **Why this matters:**

- Builds fine motor strength
- Encourages decision-making
- Supports sensory confidence
- Promotes independence and ownership of learning

We were especially proud to see children who are usually hesitant with wet textures choosing to explore paint independently.

## **Table Activities: Threading Fun**

To continue our animal theme, we offered a selection of threading beads in different shapes and sizes. This activity supported:

- Hand-eye coordination
- Concentration and patience
- Fine motor development
- Early maths skills (patterns, size comparison, counting)



The children loved challenging themselves with the smaller beads.

## **Floor Play: Exploring Magnetism**

Magnetic bricks remain a favourite, so we added baking trays to extend the children's thinking. This small change encouraged them to:

- Notice how magnets attach to metal
- Build on a flat, stable surface
- Experiment with new construction ideas



Tiny enhancements like this create deeper learning opportunities without overwhelming the children.

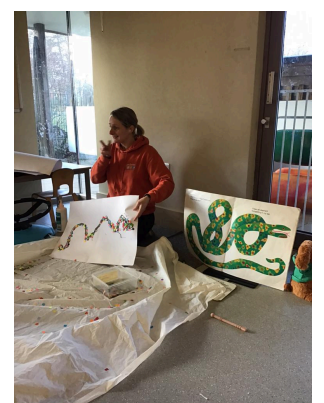
## **Group Time.**

Each day we created a different animal from our story using exciting materials such as:

- Paint
- Powder paint
- Feathers
- Textured craft items

The children were highly engaged, especially when the activity linked directly to the book. We'll continue exploring the remaining animals next week.

At Stage 3, the spinning chair was a huge hit. Many children recognised it from home and absolutely loved the sensory feedback as we sang together.



## **Gentle Reminder**

Next week we'll be using **paint on the floor**, so please dress your child in clothes suitable for messy play. It's going to be wonderfully creative!

The grasshopper children continue to make us proud every single day. Just remember the small wins to us are enormous wins for them 🌟

## **Wishing You a Fantastic Weekend**

- Thank you for your continued support.

**The Grasshopper Team** 🐛