



Grasshoppers Weekly Newsletter

Week Beginning 8th December



Christmas Continues in Grasshoppers

This week we've continued our Christmas celebrations while focusing on what each child is learning and gaining from every activity. Our role as adults is to model, engage, and support so that each child can get the most from their play. Every child learns differently, and it's wonderful to see how they each take something unique from the experiences offered.



Messy Zone

The children have been busy filling their bags of **reindeer food** (oats and sparkles) ready to take home next week—focusing on Physical Development: Fine motor skills through scooping, pouring, and filling.

- Some enjoyed the sensory element—throwing, tasting, and dropping the oats.
- Others focused on filling and emptying their bags.
- A few immersed themselves completely, climbing into the tray of oats!



We added a small tray on the floor so children could drop oats into it rather than onto the floor, helping them explore in a more contained way.



Table Time

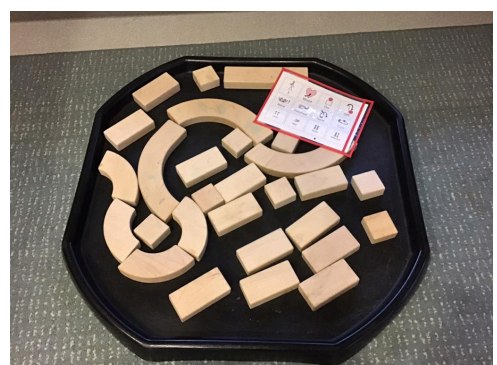
We created **wooden tree decorations** using a variety of resources—paint dabbers, glue, and glitter—focusing on Expressive Arts & Design: Creativity through choice of materials and techniques.

- Some children loved watching the glue fall and sprinkling glitter.
- Others enjoyed splatting the dabbers.
- For children who find wet, messy play more challenging, having different options gives them a sense of calm and the chance to join in at their own pace.



Floor Play

Large **community bricks** have been a favourite this week—focusing on Mathematics: Early concepts of size, shape, and balance.



- *Communication & Language*: Talking about what they build and sharing ideas.
- Our focus has been on stacking bricks, building towers, and knocking them down.
- As the week progresses, we'll add play people and small world characters to extend the learning, encouraging children to create their own imaginative structures.

Group Time

- **Bucket time**: Wind-up Father Christmases and reindeers raced across the floor, much to the children's delight.
- **Stage 2**: Shaving foam snowmen were splatted, sending foam flying everywhere! The children were thrilled, especially as they anticipated the splat. Then we build a christmas tree out of green cups and watch it all fall down.
- **Stage 3**: Bounce boards gave the children a new sensory experience. Unlike trampolines, they are harder and provide different feedback when jumping.



Gentle Reminders

- **Christmas Sing Along:**
 - Morning session: Wednesday at 11:30 (arrive by 11:25).
 - Afternoon session: Wednesday at 3:30 (arrive by 3:25).
 - Siblings are welcome!

This will also be our **Christmas Party Day**. We'll keep the routine the same but enjoy an extended snack with party food, a special visit from Santa, and then our sing along.

- **Tapestry Updates**: Please check your child's Tapestry regularly for updates, activities, and WOW moments. We love sharing what they've been learning and achieving, and we'd love to know you're seeing them—please like or comment when you do.

Closing Note

It's been another joyful week in Grasshoppers, full of festive fun and meaningful learning. We can't wait to celebrate with you all at our sing along and party day next week!

Thank you, The Grasshopper Team