

### **During this year in the Nursery**

The children in the Nursery have been building their skills through a variety of themes this year. We began with the topic of Ourselves during which we learned about our bodies, including our five senses and what we use them for. We talked about our feelings and the names of different emotions such as 'happy,' 'sad,' 'angry' or 'excited.' This helped us to talk about how we felt about starting Nursery. The run up to Christmas would not have been complete without our Christmas production of the 'Nativity' story. The children put so much effort into practising songs, learning actions and going up to the hall to rehearse and getting excited about performing onstage in front of our parents and carers. Finally, at the end of term, we celebrated Christmas with parties: food, games and dancing.

In the new year, our 'People Who Help Us' theme included a visit from Forest Hill Fire Brigade who showed us their firefighting equipment, let us sit in their fire engine and have a go at squirting the huge hosepipe! We found out about lots of different occupations such as the police, paramedics, doctors, nurses, vets and post workers. We set up our role play area as a 'Pet Vet' and cared for animals; this included observing x-ray images so we could see what the bones in the bodies of animals and humans looked like. Chinese New Year was a fantastic opportunity to invite one of our parents in to make lanterns with us. We have also really enjoyed parents coming to our 'Stay & Read' sessions each week.

Our 'In the Garden' theme involved children planting and caring for their own broad bean in soil following listening to the traditional tale, 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' We kept track of our plant's progress week by week by creating a photographic diary; it's great to know that some children's plants are still growing and perhaps producing beans which can be eaten!

The children have been building a foundation for literacy. They've learned nursery and action rhymes, raps and songs; activities that help them keep the beat. We went on listening walks to identify sounds around us and played lots of games to help us hear the initial sounds of words.

To develop mathematical understanding, the children have explored counting rhymes; they've counted each other's jumps or claps; with eyes closed, listened to stones being dropped into jars and counted 'how many' on their fingers. They've cut up fruit and divided it between one another, played sorting games and been on shape hunts around the school and Nursery, identifying similarities and differences in shapes and talking about their properties.

In their early years, children learn best through play. Play is a rewarding and enjoyable experience in which they explore, investigate, create, practise, rehearse, repeat, revise and consolidate their developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes. Our Nursery is organised to promote a child's independence as they select experiences and activities that they are interested in. Daily, we ensure that there are a wide variety of fun, interesting activities for the children to choose from which promote the seven areas of learning both inside and outside.