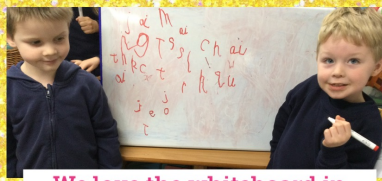
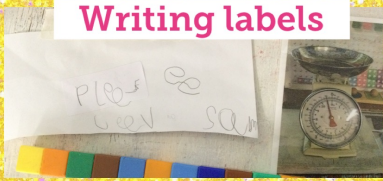


ACORN CLASS NEWS

This half term, as Autumn has given way to Winter and the darker days have slowly crept in, Acorn class have been exploring the theme of 'Who Are You?'. This topic has allowed the children to explore their own lives, lives of others within their local community and people further afield. The children have enjoyed looking at various seasonal celebration, starting close to home as we talked about their own birthday celebrations and then moved on to significant celebrations in the wider world, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Chanukah to name a few before, of course, thinking about Christmas celebrations as we rehearsed and performed 'The Twinkly Nativity'.

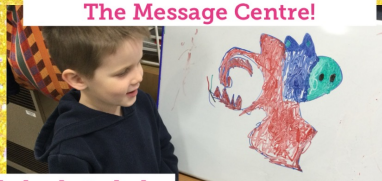
Writing labels



We love the whiteboard in The Message Centre!



In Write Dance we use our whole body to help us develop our Writing Muscles!



Phonics in Nursery

Wonderful Writing and Phenomenal Phonics

Acorn Class are amazing writers, this half term the children have enjoyed writing in so many different ways. The Reception children now know lots of sounds from our Jolly Phonics sessions and they love to practise their writing on our whiteboard in our Message Centre and put their new found skills to good use. One such example is when a child wanted to keep their super creation in the Maths Area so penned a little note for others reading 'plees leev' - so we did! The nursery children enjoy their phonics sessions too, gaining early phonological awareness through stories, games and crafts - all important stepping stones for future success. All the Acorn children enjoy 'Write Dance' which combines music, big gross-motor movements through dance and then two-handed fine motor 'scrimblings' on HUGE rolls of paper! All these muscle movements help us build the strength and stamina needed to further our writing and mark making skills.

Marvellous Maths!

Acorn Class are excellent mathematicians. This term we have continued our maths journey of discovery learning about different shapes, creating pictures using circles and triangles with our 'Tap Tap' boards; we then had great adventures describing position as we hid teddies around our classroom and had to describe where they were in relation to the objects around them. We have also continued to find about more about number - finding, representing and subitising numbers up to 5 and looking at 1 more and 1 less. We do maths all the time in Acorn Class, our daily routines see us counting our friends, looking at number formation as we write how many children are here, using a tens frame in our self-registration area and counting 'snowballs' in our daily book vote. We also have free access to our maths area which we love exploring. It may look chaotic but every piece on that table has been sorted with purpose and reason. The construction area also gives us opportunities to problem solve with our friends.

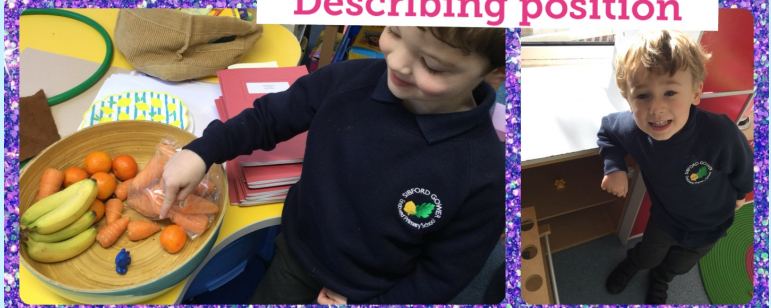
Sorting and Ordering



Problem solving



Describing position



Celebrations All Around Us

The children in Acorn Class have enjoyed observing the changes as the golden hues of Autumn give way to the frosty coatings of Winter. We have also talked a lot about how it is much darker in the morning as we come to school and in the afternoon as we make our way home again. This has been the perfect setting to talk to the children about the various cultural and religious festivals involving lights at this time of year. Term started with a bang as November 5th, Bonfire Night, was upon us. We enjoyed some 'firework themed' Write Dance activities and in the making area art straws and curling paper and ribbons become sparklers and rockets.

We also had a wonderful assembly from Mrs O'Sullivan all about Diwali, the children thought it was magical as we walked into a darkened hall to a wonderful array of glowing Diya lamps and sparkling material. Back in our classroom we used our strong fine motor muscles to make diya lamps (having practised with the clay earlier in the week) and made the special shapes by rolling, squishing and pinching the clay into shape. After leaving them to dry, we enjoyed decorating them with special pens. We also made diyas from paper plates, practising our scissor skills to make the glowing flame.

Recently, we also learned about another festival of lights at this time of year, the Jewish festival of Chanukah. The children learned about how the festival lasts for 8 nights and enjoyed looking at a Chanukah, dreidel and - possibly best of all - enjoyed helping to make (and eat) doughnuts as one of the foods traditionally eaten during the festival.



