

Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026

Round up of the week:

This week we have been exploring the wonderful world of artists, introducing the children to famous painters including Kandinsky, Picasso, Matisse, Mondrian and Van Gogh.

The children have enjoyed a variety of creative activities, using different materials and techniques to express themselves. We explored circles and shapes inspired by Kandinsky, created self-portraits in the style of Picasso, and used bright colours and simple shapes like Matisse. Later in the week, the children experimented with colour mixing inspired by Mondrian and created their own "Starry Night" paintings using cotton buds.

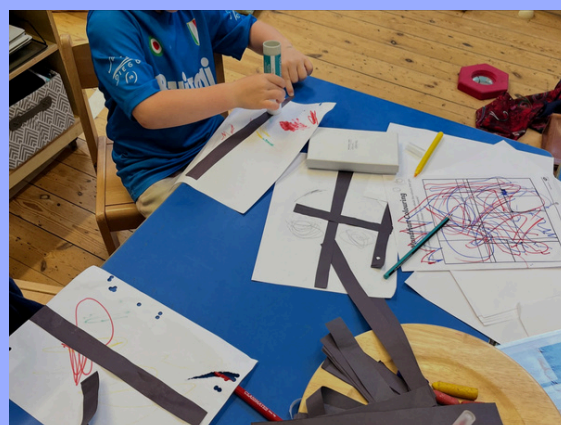
In our mark making and writing area, children practised drawing shapes, creating their own pictures, and even writing postcards to take home. We also encouraged creativity through chalk drawing and observational flower pictures.

In maths, we focused on colour sorting, counting and pattern making, using resources such as pom poms, Numicon and loose parts. The children also explored tangram puzzles and shape recognition, helping to build their problem-solving skills.

Our sensory tuff tray activities have been a big hit this week, including playdough, potions with coloured water (which inevitably ended up brown!), shaving foam mark making, and exploring coloured ice in cornflour. These activities supported both creativity and fine motor development.

During carpet times, the children learned about each artist in a fun and engaging way. They explored facial features through Picasso, talked about colours and shapes, and worked together on group art and sorting activities.

Next week our theme is Food!



Outdoor Learning

Our outdoor learning this week has continued our artists theme, giving children opportunities to be creative in a natural environment. The children explored nature art inspired by Andrew Goldsworthy, using leaves, sticks, flowers and natural materials to create their own patterns and group artwork. They also enjoyed large-scale painting activities, including creating artwork in the style of Van Gogh on big surfaces, helping to develop arm strength and confidence. Later in the week, the children experimented with clay to make pinch pots and sculptures, exploring textures and patterns using natural objects. We also created painted flags and collaborative hanging art, encouraging teamwork, creativity and pride in their work. These activities supported children's physical development, communication, creativity and collaboration, while allowing them to explore and express their ideas freely outdoors. .



Value of the month:

This month we are encouraging children to use their words honestly to express how they feel. We name their emotions and model phrases they can use.

Reminders

- Bank Holiday Monday
- Complete Parent and Child Review
- Complete Parent Questionnaire
- Sports Day Thursday 21st May
- Suncream and sunhats



Sports Day



Thursday 21st May
9:30am - 10:30am

We are very excited to welcome parents to our Flying Start Sports Day – my favourite day of the year!

The children will be practising over the next few weeks in preparation. They will be placed into teams and given a colour to represent their team. Please can you send your child in on Sports Day wearing a T-shirt in their team colour. Keep an eye on Tapestry for a message confirming your child's colour.

Please can all children arrive promptly for **9:00am**. This will give us time to organise teams, hand out numbers and get everyone ready for the event. Parents are then welcome to take a seat in the garden or return for the 9:30am start. You are very welcome to bring rugs or blankets.

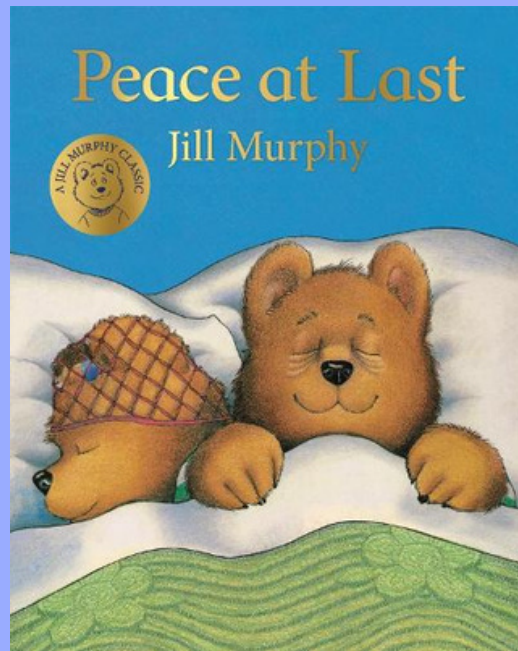
The races will last approximately one hour. If your child is not due to stay, please sign them out before leaving. Children who usually attend on a Thursday will be taken back inside preschool once the event has finished.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer additional spaces for this day.

We would also love some parent helpers to sit with the teams on the mats. If you are able to help, please do send me an email – we would really appreciate it.



Staff Favourite Stories



“My favourite children’s book is *Peace at Last* by Jill Murphy. This story holds such fond memories for me, as I remember my mum reading it to my brother and me when we were children. I can still picture those cosy evenings in our bunk beds—me snuggled under my Care Bears duvet and my brother under his Ninja Turtles one—ready to settle down for sleep.

The beginning of the story, “The hour was late...”, always felt like a comforting signal that it was time to relax and get ready for bedtime. It became a special settling moment that I still remember so clearly.

Now, when I read this story to the children at nursery, I love seeing their excitement as they join in with the familiar sounds—the hmmm of the refrigerator, the tick-tock of the clock, and the snuffle shuffle of the hedgehog. It’s such a lovely, simple story that children of all ages can enjoy. The theme is easy to understand, and even the youngest children can take part by joining in with the sounds.

It’s a story that connects my childhood memories with the children I read to today, and that makes it very special to me.”

Georgia

Important Dates

Summer Term (13 weeks)

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

Sports Day – Thursday 21st May 9:30am

Half term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Thursday 16th July

Farm Visit (am) – Friday 19th June

Thursday 16th – **Close at 12:00**

Graduation and Picnic

GOLDEN RULES

1.

Be kind:

- Gentle hands
- Kind words
- Caring for our toys



Let's share our smiles with all the world!

2.

Be safe:

- Walking inside
- Hands to ourselves



Keep our friends and toys safe and sound!

3.

Be ready:

- Listening ears
- Looking eyes
- Give things a try



Let's learn and play — we'll reach the sky!

Be kind, be safe, be ready each day —
That's the preschool way!

