

Woodcote Correspondent Feb 2024

All the children and staff were excited to return to enjoy the delights we have in store for this term.

We welcome Robyn and Lottie this term.

We are one week in, and I thought I would explain how it works, what we have done and why.

Glimpse into just one week at Cabin:

When we returned to preschool after the Christmas break, there was so much to talk about! What Santa brought, and which was their favourite present. Santa seems to have very snowy boots, as he left footprints all over Woodcote. Children told us about their family visits and recalled the Christmas lunch,

This gives the children the opportunity to express their feelings about an exciting event in their life, recall information and talk about family and people special to them. We asked them which part of the lunch they liked the best – one liked the cheese biscuits “Did you know Jayne, these ones are very special you only have them with cheese” “I liked the rounds ones” - I now know this child can recall events, knows shape, and can talk about traditions and occasions. Three parts of the EYFS ticked off; Maths, PSE, Communication and language.

Next, we made a spaceship and turned the Cabin into Space school.

Using different types of brushes and giving the children options to make choices, we covered a very tall box with white paint, then cut shapes out of tin foil and decorated the outside. The children wanted to include a window, so we cut out a round window. All the children worked together and yes most of them went home, with painted tops, and flecks in their hair and on their faces, but the smiles on their faces told me they'd enjoyed themselves. Waiting for it to dry, the children learned that not everything is instant! They have played in it all week and had to adhere to rules that apply as many of you will agree, children love a box. They have practised the skill of turn-taking and used their imagination – I have heard them talking about going to the Moon, Mars and aliens they have met. “You can be the green one”



I couldn't wait for them to meet the real Aliens that arrived in Cabin, happily sitting and waiting in the spaceship.

“THERE'S AN ALIEN IN THE SPACESHIP” “I am an Alien” – walking around like a robot, they also have been spacewalking after we discussed gravity and weightlessness. This teaches the children about the world around them and improves their understanding of the world.



We have read the book *The Loon on the Moon*, which has a lot of nonsense names and actions. We also named the aliens. Alien Alien and Fizzbungle (after a character in the book which means something rude on the Moon, the children of course found this hilarious.) Listened to rhymes, and sang space- themed songs, all of which covered our literacy targets very well.

Our role-play areas are a space rocket control centre and a rocket repair and building centre. The children can dress up in space suits and pretend to fly their rockets and use the tools to build or repair spaceships.

Carla made a space obstacle course in the garden. The children were challenged to balance, crawl, step over objects, perform side-to-side steps, jump, walk in different ways, duck down through hoola hoops and stretch. All these activities reinforce and extend a child's physical development. We also play outside every Wednesday with Oak class for Wheelie Wednesday. I read an article recently stating that 1 in 5 children are not achieving the recommended 1-hour of physical exercise per day. I can say that we get outside every day and try our best to fulfil that need.

The children have also used their creativity and expression by creating handprint aliens with Katie and making paint print planets. The aliens linked in well with our topic of being helpful and kind and the children were asked to describe ways they can help at home. It amused the staff when one little one said; "I can help but I won't tidy my room!" Creating paint planets meant the children were able to experiment with a variety of paint colours which they could mix, use alien shapes for printing and body buffers to create texture in the paint.

We have enjoyed meeting our two new baby guinea pigs as our female Guinea pig had babies over the Christmas break. They are very sweet, and the children were very keen to take care of them. We will be helping them to understand how we treat animals, what we need to do to care for them, and how to handle them properly.



During the day we actively promote the children's mathematical knowledge. Each day we count how many children are in the Cabin, count objects, look at the corresponding digit, write invisible numbers in the air, tap, clap, jump or stamp out a given number and match written numbers to objects. We play games where the children must find certain shapes in the environment, say the names of shapes they are shown, and speak about the properties of shapes including describing the number of sides etc. We measure volume in the sandpit, in the water tray and whilst using playdough. There is always a weighing scale, rulers, tape measures and containers of various sizes available for them to explore and talk about.

We are privileged to look after children who are non-verbal, we have taught many of them to sign the initial sound of their names, colours and various characters in our focus books, and the staff as well are very keen to learn more Makaton, it is very interesting and fun, as well as being so rewarding to get a sign back. So proud of everyone at Cabin that has undertaken this learning.

All that by Wednesday, so if you've ever wondered why they're tired when they get home, this is why!

The rest of the term will continue with the space theme for two more weeks, then we will celebrate Chinese New Year, a very short but fun term.

If you want to learn more about us and would like to visit, please give us a call and we can arrange a tour. Call Jayne on 01491 680854 or email [info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk)