

A warm welcome to Leo's Den

The children in Leo's Den kick started the autumn term 2021 by taking part in an art activity involving collecting leaves from the Conservation Area and experimenting using different techniques of printing.



The children had great fun even though it was a little messy.

At every opportunity we took the children outside to play. The children had free choice of activities from the Huff and Puff store which included scooters, big cars, space hoppers, bats and balls.



Go-carts: an all-time favourite. Taking turns to push each other around the playground, having races and devising obstacle courses to test their driving skills.

Children had the opportunity to create a piece of art following Andy Goldsmith's technique using natural materials such as twigs, grass, stones and leaves. The activity took place in the Conservation Area and the children were in groups of mixed ages.



For Halloween the children made ghost biscuits. They had to follow instructions, weigh ingredients accurately and share the equipment.



During Space Week the children from Leo's Den went into the Conservation Area and created a space rocket using all natural resources. The children were put into teams and had twenty minutes to build their rocket. The children had great fun foraging around to produce their end result!



While playing outside the children would play group games such as cat and mouse, football tennis and cricket. As the evenings drew in, their favorite game was hide and seek in the dark. The children in pairs, would take turns to seek while the others hid.

Once it was too dark to safely play outside the children had the opportunity to take part in various adult led activities or choose games and toys to play with inside the provision.

The children researched the meaning of Remembrance Sunday, what the colours in the poppy represented and finally using various arts and crafts created their own poppy.



Leo's Den is very lucky in the fact that we are able to use all of the schools amenities so when the children are unable to be outside they had free choice to play in the hall or stay in Leo's Den.



Den building: working as a team. Who can build the biggest den?



Role play



Construction



In the provision the children had the opportunity to use various arts and craft materials to create their own master pieces



The children enjoyed team games within the provision



Christmas fast approaching the children decorated the Christmas tree ready for the Christmas celebrations.



The Christmas tree decorated, Christmas carols playing. Let the Christmas activities begin!

The children made tree decorations using upcycled materials.



Making bobble hats



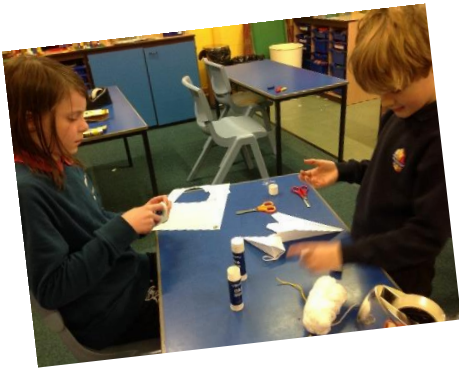
Christmas stars



Christmas crackers

January 2022 the children took part in activities connected with the weather. Using I-pads they researched facts about snow. They found out that no snowflake was the same and each snowflake had six arms.

To continue the activity the older children made geometrical icicles from paper and a paper snowman that needed skill in measuring and symmetry.



The younger children made a rocking snowman using a paper plate folded in half, paint, glue and coloured construction card.



In the New Year the children in Leo's Den celebrated Chinese New Year. The children researched the year of the tiger, wrote their names in Chinese and made paper lanterns using a weaving method.



As the evenings were drawing out the children wrapped up warm and took the opportunity to be outside playing their favourite team games like forty forty in, cat and mouse and football.



For Red Nose Day the children decorated biscuits in the design of a red nose. The children enjoyed doing the activity but even more enjoyed eating the end result!



The children were very busy in Leo's Den preparing for Easter. They created their own chick using paints and split pins so that the chick could 'fly', designed their own Easter cards to give to the special people in their lives, made Easter Marshmallow Bark and designed their own Easter eggs.



As the weather got warmer and the evenings got lighter the children spent most of their evening sessions outside. Activities included archery, quid ditch boarding and go-carting.



The children decided it was bath time for the babies as they bathed their babies they decided their clothes needed washing too. By the time the children had finished I don't know who was the wettest.



During the month of May the children started to prepare for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Using the colours from the flag, red, white and blue the children made pompoms, created flags using the weaving method and designed their own crowns. They listened to the National Anthem, trying to learn the words.



The children in Leo's Den have been experimenting using tie-dye on white t-shirts. We started off by watching a video showing different techniques then the children chose the method which they liked the best to create their tie-dye t-shirt. There was a variety of different results. The children had great fun.





As Summer time approached the children took the responsibility to help maintain the plants in the Eco-Garden so that the plants would thrive. The children learnt some of the names of the plants growing and why plants needed water.



We continued the theme on plants and the children grew grass heads from seed. The children knew that the grass heads needed water and warmth to grow but weren't sure if they needed light. They carried out an experiment where they placed two grass heads in a cupboard with no light, the others were placed on the windowsill where there was plenty of light. The children monitored the grass heads over a period of time and soon realised that the grass heads in the cupboard did need light to thrive.



During the heat wave in July the children took the opportunity to cool down by having a water fight. Everyone had great fun and got soaking wet!



Mrs Howell and Miss Stanley are very proud of all the children who attend Leo's Den. They feel that the provision belongs to the children. The activities, games, arts and crafts are planned around the children's interests. We provide a calm, safe provision for the children to thrive.