



## Nursery Newsletter March 2024

### Message from Mrs Heasman



Dear Parent/Carer

March has arrived and we are very busy at Canberra Nursery! Bookbug sessions and Nature Adventures both took place in February and the children loved sharing their learning with their parents/carers. We are looking forward to Parent/Carer consultations on the 7th of March and we have so much wonderful news to share about our children's learning and progress! We hope to see you there.

Our big news is that HMIE are visiting to inspect the nursery/school week beginning 18th March. This will be a fantastic opportunity for us to share the fabulous experiences that our children engage in every day. We hope that you are able to complete the questionnaire that we sent home via email and Learning Journals and if possible be part of a focus group.

We hope that everyone has a relaxing and fun Spring Break and look forward to enjoying the summer term when we get back!

Regards

Angela

Being me



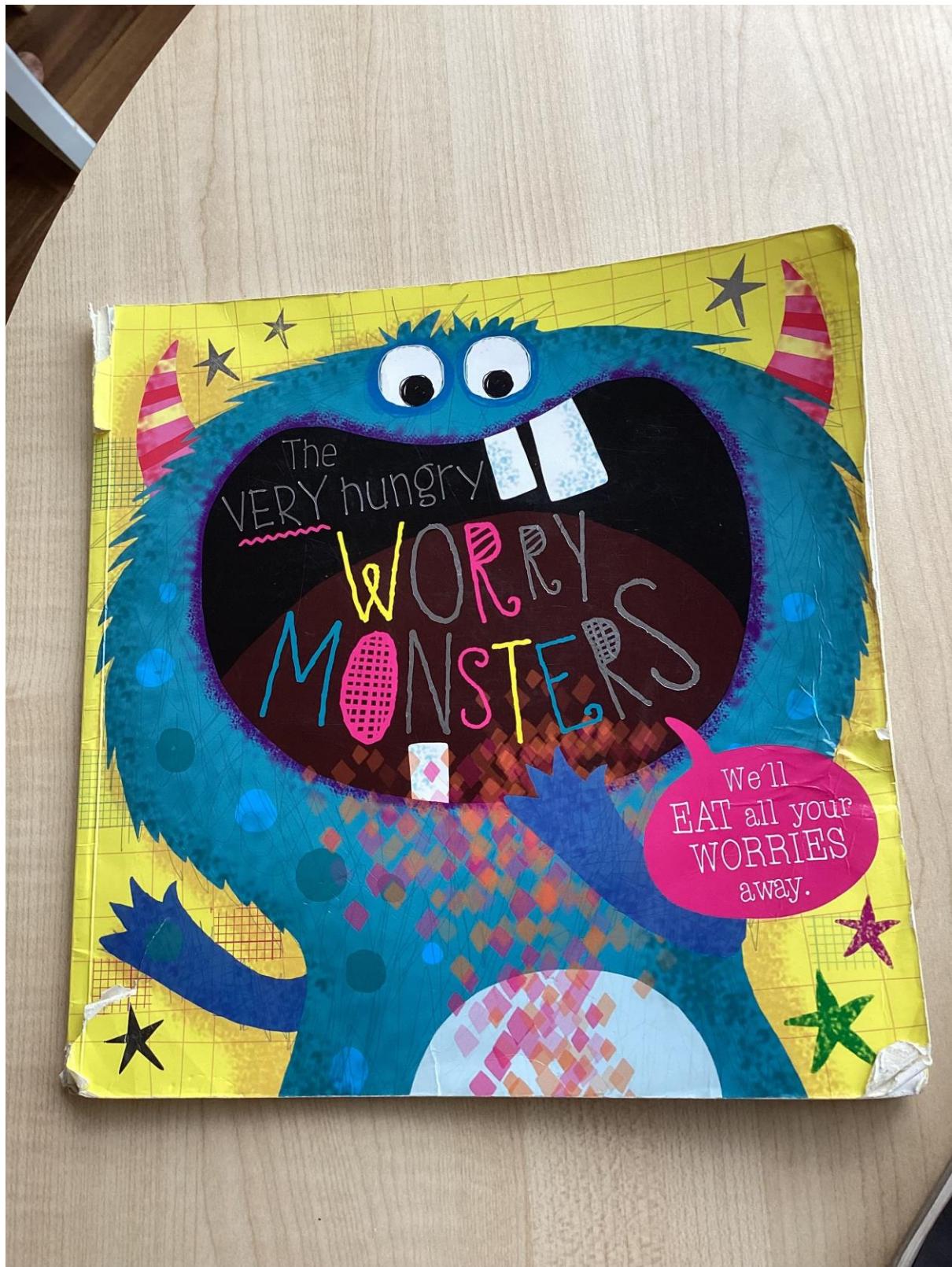


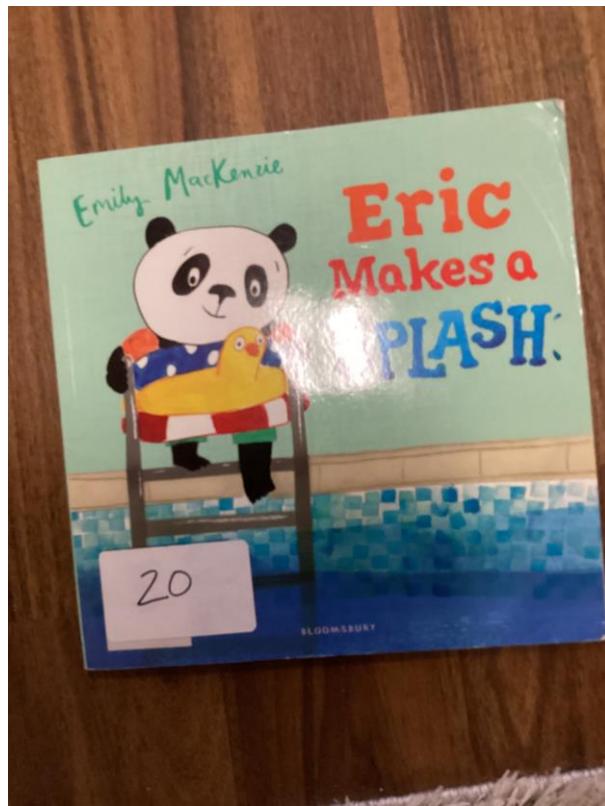
As we continue our learning journey we continue to grow in confidence. This month we have been learning to share our thoughts and ideas with others. We have been leading our own learning through making and creating outdoors and indoors. We have been creating our own obstacle courses with large loose parts, making dens and exploring in the mud kitchen.

We have also been using our imagination in play, creating scenarios, sharing our ideas and developing our relationships.

As Spring approaches we are looking forward to planting and growing, learning about plants and flowers and looking at the changes in Our Tree.

Songs and Rhymes of the month





One of the books we have been reading is **The very Hungry Worry Monsters** by Rosie Greening. When Frettie Fluster, the Worry Monster expert, realises she cannot find one of the monsters, she starts to worry.... The story unfolds and we learn about the worry monsters who help take our worries away. This book helps children to talk about their worries.

The other book we have been reading is **Eric Makes a Splash** by Emily MacKenzie. In this story Eric is a worrier, and nothing worries him more than the thought of swimming. So when Eric receives an invitation to a pool party, he is sent into a worrying whirl. What if his fur gets wet? What if water goes in his eyes? What if he sinks to the bottom of the pool? Fortunately, Eric has a brave and fearless friend who wants to help. But can she convince Eric that swimming is fun? This story encourages children to understand that it is ok to be worried and with help and support you can have fun.

Please ask your child:

Which story did you like or dislike?

Can you remember any of the characters?

Can you remember what happened in the story?

Our songs we have been learning are 5 Current buns and Its Raining, It's Pouring and our actions song we have been learning is Hockey Cokey

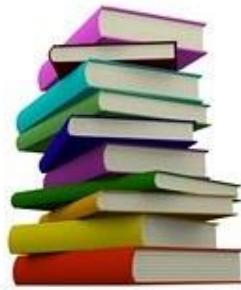
The rhymes we have been learning are Jack and Jill.

*LIT0-01c I enjoy exploring and choosing stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to and can share my likes and dislikes.*

#### Thing Links

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1807435018725753318>

#### Literacy Bags



As part of her coordinator role, Mrs Bradley has developed literacy bags to develop communication and language at home. The bags have had great feedback, and our children and families have engaged so well with them. Each bag contains a story, games and ideas for you and child to enjoy at home.

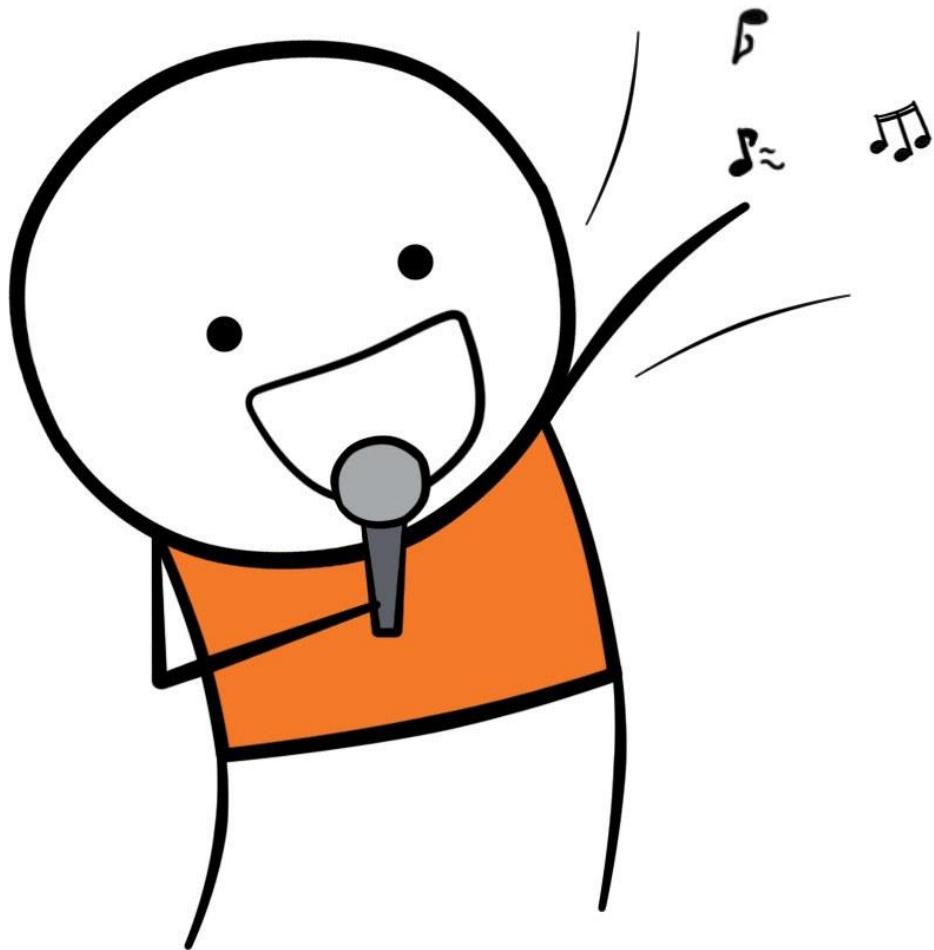
When reading at home with your child, it is important to talk to your child about the story. For example, who is in the story?, what is happening? How are the characters feeling? Asking questions like this helps children to develop their narrative skills and transfer into their own imaginative stories

*LIT 0-09b I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts and I use what I learn to invent my own, sharing these with others in imaginative ways.*





## Tiny Happy People



Please click on this link to access the [Tiny Little People](#) website.

Here you will find ways to support your child's communication and development and there are lots of great videos with nursery rhymes and songs. Happy singing!

## Numeracy: Patterns



This month we have been exploring patterns. We are learning to talk about and identify patterns in the world around us. We also use loose parts to create our own patterns, matching, sorting and creating. When identifying pattern, we ask our children to look at shapes, colours and sizes.

*MTH 0-13a – I have spotted and explored patterns in my own and wider environment and can copy and continue these and create my own patterns.*

Please click on the photos below to see how we explore patterns.

## Wellbeing: Responsible



Each month the school and nursery will focus on a SHANARRI wellbeing indicator. This month we are focusing on the wellbeing indicator of Responsible. In nursery our children are responsible for

making choices and decisions about their learning and set targets in consultation with their key person.

During the day our children are responsible for choosing their lunch, keeping themselves safe and helping at belonging time. Outdoors our children risk assess, litter pick and care for the environment.

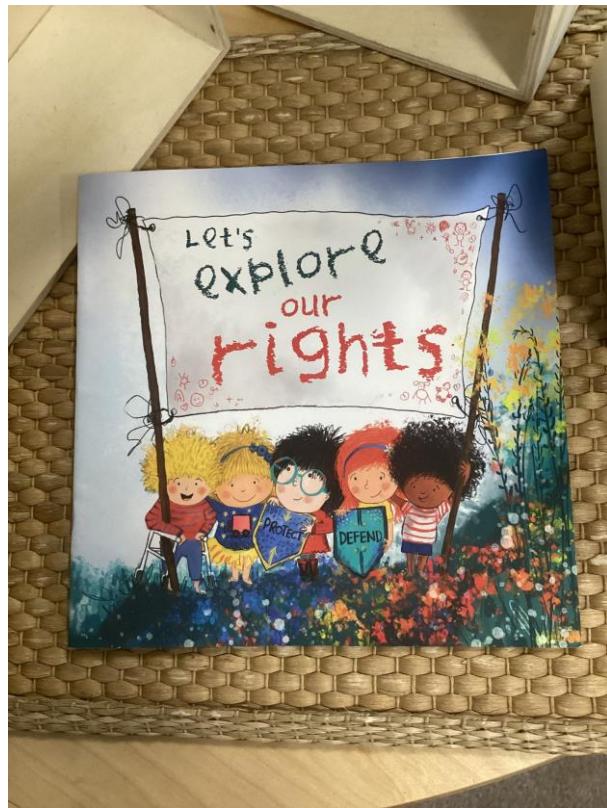
Please click on the photos to see how we are responsible in nursery.

## Our Rights, Article 24: We have the right to be healthy.



As we explore our rights, we are learning that we all have rights. This month we are focusing on the right to health, care, safe water, nutritious food and to learn about being healthy. In nursery we are learning about healthy choices and healthy foods. We are learning about the importance of outdoors and being active. We also are learning about the importance of good hygiene, for example brushing our teeth and hand washing. Both indoors and outdoors we are learning about how to stay safe and risk assess in our play.

*HWB 0-09a As I explore the rights to which I and others are entitled, I am able to exercise these rights appropriately and accept the responsibilities that go with them. I show respect for the rights of others.*



*1 - Let's Explore our rights. This book was created by the Children and Young People's Commissioner in Scotland to support us to spark first conversations with our children to explore their human rights.*

*In this book children learn about the rights they have and why they have them. "Rights help us to grow up with happiness, Love and understanding"(P1)*

*Please ask your child*

*What are rights?*

*Can they think of one of the rights they have?*

*Please click on the link below for information on how to support your child's Rights*

*[Parent Information](#)*

*Please click on the link below hear the story:*

*[Lets explore our rights YouTube](#)*

## Healthy Lunches



We are a health promoting nursery and we encourage our children to make healthy choices. We follow the NHS [Setting the Table](#), which provides nutritional guidance and food standards.

Please click on the link for the [Lunches](#) menu.

We provide a healthy snack in the morning and afternoon and most of our children choose a nursery lunch however if your child chooses to have a packed lunch, we would like it to be as healthy as possible.

Here is an example of a healthy packed lunch: sandwich/wrap, yogurt and a piece of fruit.

Could you also please provide an ice block in your child's packed lunch to keep the food cool and fresh. Children do not need juice as we provide milk and water.

*HWB 0-32a I know that people need different kinds of food to keep them healthy.*





2 - An example of a healthy lunch box.

Click on the link below for some great recipes on the Parent Scotland website.

[Recipes | Parent Club](#)

## ChildSmile



ChildSmile is a national programme to help improve the oral health of children in Scotland. Each child has their own toothbrush with a picture of an animal on it to help them identify their own brush. Each day we will encourage your child to brush their teeth and learn about how to brush their teeth, and the importance of toothbrushing.

*HWB 0-33a I am becoming aware of how cleanliness, hygiene and safety can affect health and wellbeing and I apply this knowledge in my everyday routines such as taking care of my teeth.*

## Sponsored Dance Along

We had so much fun taking part in our sponsored Dance Along. We all took part in trying different dances, for example, Cotton Eye Joe, Waka Waka, Superman, Dance Dance Dance, Barbie Girl, break dancing and many more. We also had one of our parents come along to introduce our children to Dance Jeneration. In the session we learned how to do Elephant has Wrinkles, which we loved!

We are so thankful for all the support from our children and families and to date we have raised the most spectacular amount of £1189!!!! We can't thank you all enough!

We will now consult with our children on what toys and resources they would like and choose a gift for our local care home. We have also booked Animal Man to come to nursery and our children are so excited for this!

*EXA 0-10a I have the opportunity to enjoy taking part in dance experiences.*

*HWB 0-13a Through contributing my views, time and talents, I play a part in bringing about positive changes in my school and wider community.;*

## Parent Focus Group



This month our parent focus group has been working alongside Mrs Kaczan to arrange planting, growing and to make a greenhouse using recycled milk bottles. Days have been planned for the rest of the year and we look forward to sharing these with you.

As you saw from our sponsored dance along, one of our parents came in to introduce our children to dance. This was really successful and our children loved it. If you have any talents, hobbies or interests that you would like to share with us, please let us know.

If you would like to be part of our parent focus group, please let us know, we aim to meet every 6 weeks and you don't have to commit to every session.

Next meeting date/times:

March tbc

16th April 2:00-2:30pm

21st May 2:00-2:30pm

## Skill of the Month: Threading



Our children love threading experiences at nursery. Through these activities, we develop our concentration span, our thinking skills and it encourages the use of the pincer grasp between they thumb and forefinger. This grip naturally strengthens the small hand muscles that are essential for holding a crayon to colour or a pencil to write.

At home you could encourage your child to make a colour pattern with the material they are using for threading. Threading becomes more challenging when the resources become smaller and more flexible so if your child needs that extra challenge, you could use ribbon instead of laces, cooked spaghetti instead of dry spaghetti, macaroni instead of penne pasta or small beads instead of large

ones. You could encourage your child to make a colour pattern with the material they are using for threading.

Add numbers to challenge your child when counting the items that they are threading.

Click on the link to download a [free printable template](#) to use if you have a printer available.

## Froebel: Block Play



Block Play is one of Froebel's occupations. In Block Play children develop skills in every curricular area. There are different size blocks and a range from hollow to unit blocks. What is different about wooden blocks is that they are free-standing, unlike Lego for example.

In block play children can play cooperatively or on their own. Sometimes when children begin on their own they join up their play with others in the area. Froebel encouraged children to build on their own and instructed teachers to link their buildings into a story so that everyone was included.

In playing with blocks children demonstrate what they know:

- They explore the rudiments of arithmetic, algebra and geometry - from simple shape recognition to the concepts of point, line, plane, distance and angle, just as in the sequence of Froebel's Gifts and Occupations.

- Children can create structures in play with the blocks - reflections, rotations and translations - that supports later more abstract understanding of geometry.
- Blocks encourage symmetrical building - giving children the opportunity to explore symmetry in far greater depth than the two dimensional folded paper and paint exercise that is a common introduction.
- Blocks provide opportunities to learn about size, shape and measurement.

*MTH 0-16a I enjoy investigating 2D and 3D shapes and can sort, describe and be creative with them.*

Please click on the photos below to see how our block play is developing.

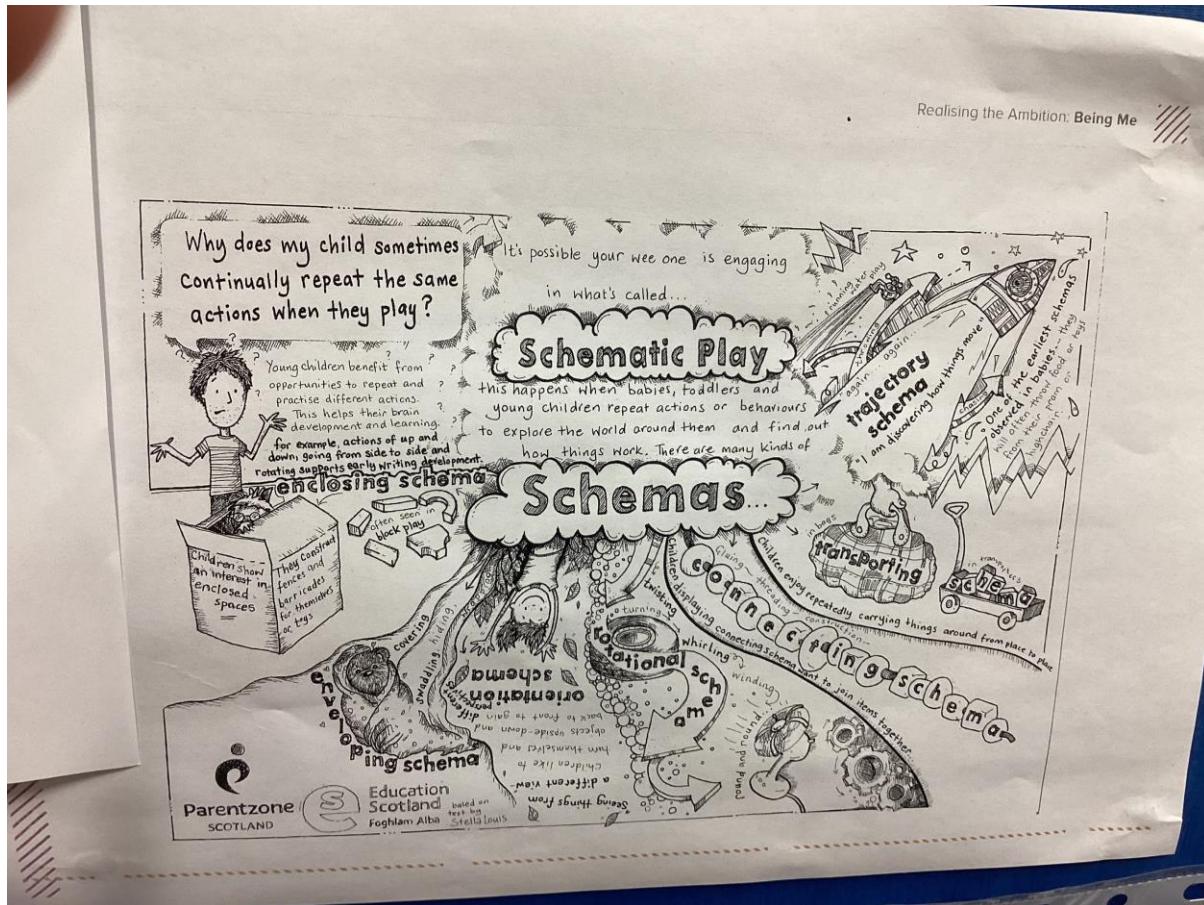
Fit in 5!



This week at dance club we are continuing to take the lead and choose our favourite songs to dance to. Each week a different child chooses the songs and leads the dance session. We all love CDC (Canberra Dance Club).

If your child has any dance moves they like to do at home, please share them on Learning Journals.

## Schemas: Trajectory



When children repeat patterns of behaviour and actions this is known as schematic play. There are different types of schemas that have been identified and some children will often display them in play whilst others may not be so obvious. Children will repeat these behaviours and action to make sense of the world and to find out how things work.

This month we are looking at the schema of **Trajectory**. In this schema you may see your child naturally curious as to how things are moved and respond to being dropped, kicked, pushed and thrown. You may also see them putting things into containers.

Experiences to develop this schema:

- Play skittles.
- Splash/splatter with paint.

- Twirl ribbons on a stick.
- Play to bash and squash.
- Water play with funnels.
- Throwing and catching scarves, tissues or feathers.
- Bubble play.
- Box of balls, to throw, catch or roll.

Please [click here](#) to access more information on schemas.

Please click on the photos to see this schema in nursery.

## Learning Journals



We use Learning Journals to share your child's learning and development. We do this through significant observations and stories, which are linked to the curriculum. We aim to share at least one

observation and one story with you each week, which will also have suggestions on how you can support this learning at home too.

We would love for you to share your child's learning with us on Learning Journals. Please click the link below if you need any information on how to do this.

**A new feature if Learning Journals is the Conversation tab, you can now send messages to your child's key person directly. If you need any help with this please ask.**

If you are having any difficulty with an aspect of the Learning Journals, them please speak to your child's key person, Mrs McNulty or email us and we will be happy to help.

Other ways we share learning is through our monthly Sway newsletter, key person feedback at pick up time, daily Twitter posts and each child will have an individual target in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.

If you would like any information or further communication then please arrange this with your child's key person or email us at [GW20nurserycanberra@glow.sch.uk](mailto:GW20nurserycanberra@glow.sch.uk)

## Twitter



We add to our Twitter page daily. Our Tweets give a small snap shot of some of the experiences your child can take part in and can give you an opportunity to talk to your child about the nursery day.

Please follow us @CanberraNursery

## Learning Together: Nature Detectives

As a nature loving nursery, we would like to know about any interesting places you and your child have visited and what you did there?.

A great place to explore is your local woodlands or forest areas. Taking the time to spend time in nature has many health benefits for you and your child. At the bottom of the page there are links to the Nature Detectives page, which will give you identification sheets for a number of things in nature, for example trees, twigs, leaves and butterflies.

We would love for you to share your nature walks with us on Learning Journals.

[Children and Families Blogs - Woodland Trust](#)

[Things To Do in Our Woods - Woodland Trust](#)

*SOC 0-08a I explore and appreciate the wonder of nature within different environments and have played a part in caring for the environment.*

## Parent Council



Canberra Parent Council is made up of family members who represent the body of the school. If you would like to be involved or become a member you can contact them through their Twitter page by direct message.

Twitter Page: @CanberraPCin EK or contact the nursery or school and we can put you in touch.

Meeting dates:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 18.9.23  | Drop-in (6.30-7.00pm) and AGM (7.00-8.00pm) |
| 9.10.23  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 20.11.23 | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 8.12.23  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 15.1.24  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 26.2.24  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 29.4.24  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 20.5.24  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |
| 8.6.24   | Summer Fair                                 |
| 10.6.24  | Meeting 6.30-8.00pm                         |

We will give you updates and information from the Parent Council.

## Useful Websites

Parent Club Scotland: <https://www.parentclub.scot/>

Speech and Language Lanarkshire: <https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-speech-and-language-therapy-service/>

Learning Journal Parent Support: <https://learningjournals.co.uk/resources/parent-guide/>

Parentzone Scotland: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

ChildSmile: <https://www.child-smile.org.uk/parents-and-carers/index.aspx>

Occupational Therapy, Building Independence for young people:

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/services/occupational-therapy/children-and-young-people/early-years/>

NHS Lanarkshire Children & Young People, Occupational Therapy:

**Advice Line** - Tuesday mornings 9.30 - 11.30am on 01698 753707

Twitter - @OccupationalTh4

Please click on the link below for advice on child development:

Developmental Advice for 3-4 Year olds:

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=10036&ind=1589358950467>

Developmental Advice for 4-5 year olds:  
<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=10036&ind=1589358954731>

## Start & Finish Times



*3 - We have a soft start and finish times to support our children to have a smooth transition to nursery.*

*In the morning our start time is 9:00-9:15am*

*In the afternoon our pick up times are 2:45-3:00pm*

## Dates for Your Diary



**March:**

Parent Consultations 7th (times have been sent out via Learning Journals)

World book day 7th

Stay and Play week, 18th/25th March(times on Learning Journals)

Spring/Easter Break, nursery closes 2:30pm on Thursday 28th and reopens Monday 15th of

April

**April:**

Animal Man 24th April 10-11am

**May:**

In-service day 2nd

May day 6th

Sports day 23rd

Local holiday 24th and 27th

**June:**

End of term celebration 20th

Party 21st (am)

Summer Break Nursery closes Wednesday 26th June

Please click on this link to view [School Holidays](#)

\*\* Please note others dates will be added each month.

## Contact Us



4 - Please get in touch on the nursery email address at [gw20nurserycanberra@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20nurserycanberra@glow.sch.uk) or by calling the school office on 01355 224362 if you have any questions or concerns.