



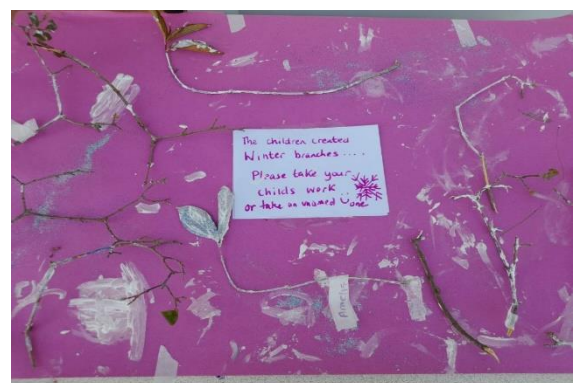
Theydon Bois Pre-School Group

December 2023

Dear Parent/carers,

It has been another busy term for us at Pre School and the children have had so much fun exploring winter and getting ready for Christmas. We wanted to share some of their magical moments with you here, please show your child the photos and ask them what is happening in them. This is a great way to strengthen your child's communication and language skills as well as practising memory recall.

The children had such fun painting some collected twigs. They magnificently transformed them into winter branches by using fine paint brushes and white paint. Lastly, they added some glitter to represent winter frost.



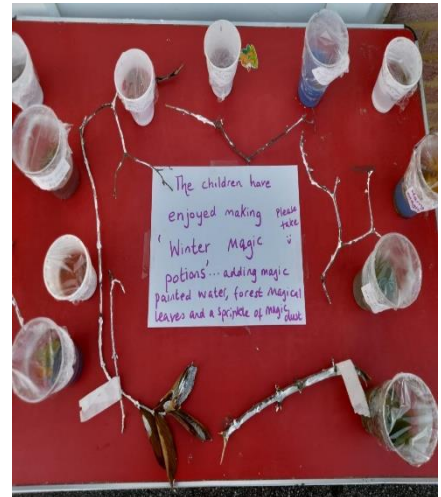
We have enjoyed looking at various books on Arctic animals and the children extended this by creating their own polar bears using white paint and a plastic fork to create a fur like texture on their polar bears.



Everyone loves making magic potions, so we decided to make our very own magic winter potions at Pre School. The children eagerly gathered around with their plastic cups to create their very own potions. They selected glitter, natural foliage and used pipettes to transfer coloured water into their cups.

Did you know that allowing your child to play with a pipette supports their fine motor skills!

The children were encouraged to squeeze the bulb part at the top of the pipette and then submerge it into the coloured water, once it was securely in they were then encouraged to slowly release their grip. This was a challenge for some of the children but practice makes perfect and we will continue using our pipettes in other activities. Once each child had a full pipette we encouraged them to transfer the water with a steady hand to their potion cups and that's how the magic happened!



The children took part in a discussion about winter clothing and were able to say that they need to wear a hat, gloves and scarf as well as a coat to keep warm in the winter. They also talked about the weather and that when it becomes really cold it can sometimes snow which is such fun as they can then play in it and build snowmen. Please see more of your children's fabulous seasonal topic artwork.



Christmas is almost here and the children have been so excited telling us all about what they have been up to at home from putting up their trees to visiting Santa with their families.

The children created some fabulous reindeer tree decorations by imprinting their feet in a salt dough mixture they made. We have added the simple salt dough recipe below in case you want to try this fun activity at home with your children.



Thank you to Blake's mummy for sharing these wonderful Christmassy photos of Blake placing her reindeer tree decoration on their Christmas tree.



The above salt dough recipe can be followed and if you would like fast results just place your child's creation on a baking sheet, pop it into the oven on gas mark 6 for 2 – 3 hours. Once it has cooled down it is ready to paint and decorate. Salt dough can also be left out to dry overnight and when it is hard and dry your child can decorate it.

If you do give this fun activity a go at home we would love to see your child's masterpieces at Pre School.

Continuing with fabulous Christmas artwork here are a couple more photos of our creative pre-schoolers working hard using their fine motor skills to paint Christmas images. Such great focus and results here, well done.....



The children have been working very hard each week rehearsing for their Christmas Nativity. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as the children and staff have rehearsing over the last couple of weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated something for our raffle, James our fabulous Santa and a big thank you to you all for continuing to support the Pre School.

The total amount raised for this event was an amazing £525.00, thank you!

Polite reminders

Please ensure all your children's belongings are clearly labelled.

It would be extremely helpful if your child's school bags were clearly labelled on the outside as this would help speed up the going home process.

Please could we ask you to label your children's lunchboxes and drinking bottles as this makes it easier for us to locate them to their owners at lunch time.

Please could we also ask that you do not send your children into Pre School wearing crocs, wellies, Ugg boots or anything similar as these types of footwear are not suitable for your child to wear in school. However, if you would like your child to walk to school in any of the above we are very happy to help them change into more appropriate footwear on arrival.

Lastly, could we politely remind you that we do not have any storage space at Pre School for pushchairs, scooters or bikes. Please can we kindly ask you to take them back home with you or alternatively chain them to the railings outside the main exit doors.

My mini report

We are thrilled to be able to provide you with a developmental overview of your child's progress in the new year. The report will be titled 'My mini report' and will be distributed termly. Your child's key person will be creating the report using their professional knowledge and feedback from other members of staff too. If you have any questions once you have received your child's report please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Additionally, we hope to arrange more 'Stay and Play' sessions in the new year and would love to see as many of you as possible attend these events. These sessions are a good opportunity to catch up with your child's key person and also see your child at play. We would also like to highlight here you are always welcome to book an appointment with your child's key person to discuss anything at any time.

Staffing

There are a couple of staff changes for the new year and sadly we have to say goodbye to Melanie and Louise. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and wish them all the very best for the future.

We are super excited to welcome a 'new' Louise to our Pre School family who will be working with us from January 2024.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing committee for all their hard work over the last year as without you the Pre School could not continue. You really are an amazing bunch!

Finally we would like to remind you that we break up on Tuesday 19th December at the usual time and return to Pre School on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy. Healthy New Year

From

Tammy, Chris and all the staff at Theydon Bois Pre School



Thank you to Mitchell and Blake's Mummy's for sending us this great photo!

