

Rainbow Room Newsletter 23-24 Term 2

Hi Everyone! I'm taking the opportunity to share some of our photos, as we have not had Dojo and you haven't had chance to see how the children have been getting on.

Curriculum – Our topics this term are Light, Firework Safety, Remembrance Day, Sound and Christmas. We were lucky to have a visiting teacher from the High School to teach about light. The children have made some firework pinwheel sandwiches, cheese straw witches brooms and fireworks, in our food prep sessions.



We have been using our new light box and tray (purchased with money from our sponsored event last year) for sensory tactile and visual activities. It's been a busy start to the term, with curling for some of our children and our Primary 4s and Primary 5 children just started a swimming block, and have been having fun and getting more confident in the water already! The Primary 1s and 2s are doing a Nativity this year, and the Primary 5s and 6s are doing a concert based on Peter Pan. The children in the Rainbow Room in those year groups will be included in ways that allow them to be comfortable, whilst the other children take their turn to watch this year. There will be a dress rehearsal where we can go to the church to watch.

Staffing – Whilst our staffing situation is not ideal, with having to use supply Learning Assistants on a daily basis to cover adults who are absent, and while we await a review of our staffing numbers, we are lucky because we have found some super Learning Assistants who have become regular, familiar faces for the children. Also, the Learning Assistants that began with us in Term 1 have been able to stay with us in Term 2.

Just a reminder that sometimes we have other adults in our classroom who are visiting specialists, such as Occupational Therapists, or Speech and Language Therapists. The teachers from the mainstream classes sometimes visit the Rainbow Room to support with Curricular activities.



Environment – The children have made some lovely displays of fireworks and castles. We have added some rainbow net curtains to our play room, as the sun was very bright coming in through the windows to the extent that it was making it hard for children to look at each other when talking because they were just silhouettes! Obviously communication is an important part of our day and we need to be able to look at each other when we speak, to learn about our emotions. With some of the sponsor money raised last year we have been able to add a sensory tent to the playroom and we have some light accessories that have been used for our light topic, but also for sensory calming. One of our boys even helped screw together one of our new toys, and put batteries in another, following all the instructions. We have also been able to buy hooks and mirrors for our dressing up area (previously just a plastic box!) making it more accessible. Any donations of dressing up clothes would be gratefully received!

Outside, with the money raised last year, we have space hoppers, wheelies, 2 new ride-on cars, Perspex boards for outdoor art, maths and writing, a basketball net, a washing machine, a microwave and a huuuuge tunnel that all the children have had lots of fun with...but also lots of learning! Coming soon (hopefully by the end of this month) is our pirate ship which, along with the mud kitchen, is being funded with a generous donation from Eon. The photo shows where it's at just now! I have bought lots of accessories with our sponsor money to go with it – telescope and periscope, sensory floor tiles etc...and the children will be making a flag!





Communication – As explained in a note last week, we will use email in the Rainbow Room to discuss individual children and things that are just relating the Rainbow Room. Things that the children do with their mainstream class we will report to you with Wakelet. This is so that you don't have to use two QR codes. I check emails before school starts and at the end of the school day. For absences and anything urgent, please phone the school office. A reminder that my email address is gw09armstrongsarah@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

