



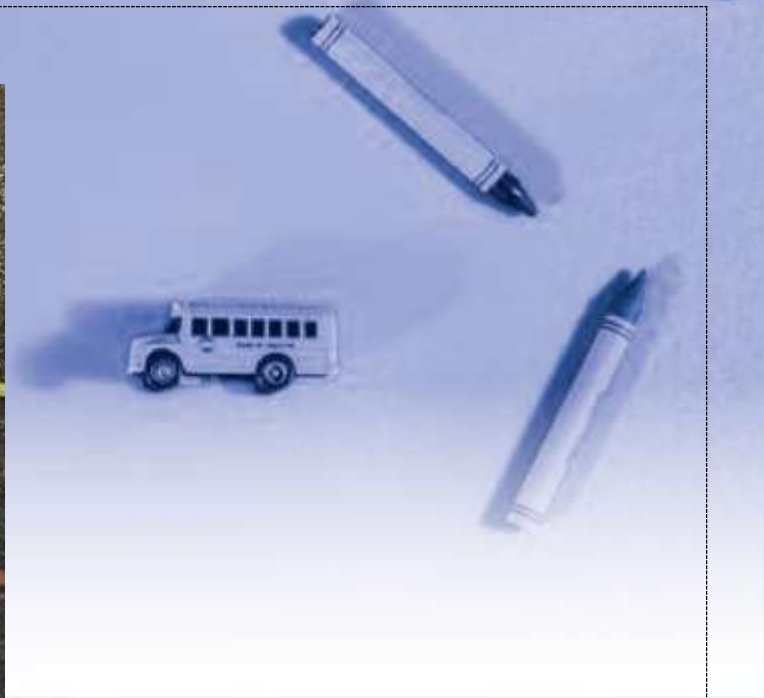
# EYC and Class Blogs

## Early Years Centre

The nursery children have been very interested in transport and have been developing their play around this theme. They have been designing ships with Miss Burton, using large loose parts. Inside the nursery we have built The Barr Bus, complete with private number plate, timetables, tickets and special bus driver's hat!! Some of our children have been keen to draw their own plans for construction and have become architects and builders.

We took advantage of the recent good weather and had a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon at the river. We took a picnic lunch, fishing nets and a bucket. We fed the ducks, saw a King Fisher, caught loads of fish and then released them back into the river once we had looked at them closely through our magnifying glass.









Mrs Chesterman, Miss Millarvic

# P1-3

## Outdoor Fridays

One of our favourite times of the week is Outdoor Friday where we get together as a whole school to explore our local area. We have explored areas of the woodland, near and far and also gone on a couple of long walks around the trails. We began by forming tribes and building our own tribe headquarters and creating secret handshakes. Following on from this we went a long walk along the trails and discovered there are lots of fungi in our area. We were very interested in this and so we have begun investigating the local fungi and used identifying sheets to try to identify the different fungi.













Although we are a little stuck on what some of them are, so if you know what these fungi are will you please let us know?



We then moved on to looking at plants and their structure. Using white flowers and food colouring we experimented to see what the plant's stem is used for. In our tribes we set up the experiment and left them to see what would happen. We had great results and were able to dye our flowers with the coloured water, this showed us that the water travelled up the stem and into the flower. We also created detailed diagrams showing our experiment.









## Awards

Congratulations to our recent award winners in the Junior Class. Each of you has displayed the values we hold dear at the school and makes our class such a special one. You have all gone above and beyond in your own way and hopefully you will continue to embody the values of the school and class.



## Cricket

We have really enjoyed learning Cricket this term during our P.E. sessions. Miss Taylor and Miss Burton have been teaching us to throw overarm and underarm and hit the ball with the bat. We are getting very good at this and enjoy trying to get as many runs as we can before the other team puts us out. We love our warm up games when we start our lesson, our favourites are Beans and Miss Burton is Going on Holiday to...



## Funky Fingers

To help us develop our fine motor skills we have begun daily Funky Fingers exercises. These activities are designed to develop the dexterity in our fingers and encourage a pincer grip. Over time these activities should help us become more confident when writing and make our presentation better, plus they are lots of fun.









## Go Noodle

One of our favourite parts of the day is our *Go Noodle* session. We love trying out the different dances and although we have our favourites we love it when there are new ones to try. We have already maxed out 3 characters since we started in August and found a few new favourite songs. P4-7 and Mr Christie have also introduced us to some new dances on our Fridays (even though Miss Burton is not a fan of *Dance Like a Grandad*). Our favourites at the moment are - *Old Town Road*, *Achy Breaky Heart*, *Maxerena*, *Koukou Move* and *Fresh Start*. It helps to keep us fit and healthy and makes our brains ready to learn.





## Feelings and RRS

This term we have been looking at feelings and Children's rights. We started the year by studying *The Colour Monster Goes to school* and the colours we associate with the different feelings, we use these colours to check in each morning to show Miss Burton how we are feeling that day and why. We took part in lots of colour themed activities - we painted our feelings, experimented with skittle science, made cards to cheer someone up, took part in feelings charades, took feelings selfies and explored how feelings relate to children's rights.





We then moved on focusing more on different Children's Rights and created our Class Charter with the rights we felt were the most relevant for our classroom.



## Little Charlie

One of the highlights of this term has been our Talk for Writing unit Little Charlie. We have been learning the story of Little Charlie, which is a journey story. As a class we learn the story verbally using the class and our own story maps. We have taken part in role play activities using the story, even making a movie, acted it out in our small world, made scenes from the story using the construction materials and created puppets to retell the story. In pairs we present the story to each other with the actions associated and then wear Miss Burton's magic storytelling hat to present individually to the class. Little Charlie is an absolute favourite story and we have begun to look at the written version of the story, highlighting patterns in the text, adjectives, looking for shiny words and identifying the main character. We will use all this learning to make our own versions of the story and then our own journey stories. Miss Burton says we are fabulous at the story and we will present it to anyone that visits our class. Just ask us and we will perform for you too!











## Numbers

In numeracy and mathematics we have been learning about numbers to 10 and place value to 100/1000. We have been taking part in lots of fun activities and games to develop our understanding counting and how numbers are built. Using the base ten materials we made place value pictures, where we used them to make a picture and then had to count up the total of the image. In groups we have been playing games where we identify if a number is an Odd Todd or an Even Steven. We used the base ten materials to split numbers into their different parts and identify the hundreds, tens and ones in each number. The P1s have also been using the Numicon materials to build our own Numicon City and counted the number of windows on each building.







## Phonics and Sentences

We have quickly begun our phonics learning this term and are making good progress with our new sounds. We have used different materials to practise forming the letters and build words using them.











As well as developing our phonics skills we are continuing to work on making sentences. We love our sentence dominoes and use them regularly to build and read our own sentences.



## Pirate Christie

We had a very exciting visitor in the Junior Class last month. Pirate Christie arrived in the class during one of our play-based afternoons. He came in and read us the story 10 Little Pirates. It was very exciting, and we all loved the story. Hopefully Pirate Christie will come back and see us again soon.



## Play-based

We have been having a great time in our play-based area since coming back. We have made the area slightly bigger, and this allows us more room to explore the activities. We had great fun in the home corner at the start of the term and last week we helped Miss Burton turn it into a café where we can make lots of different foods for our customers. We have two managers for the café and they created menus for us to use when ordering. Customers have money which they use to pay the price stated on the menu, though ice cream can get expensive. We worked as a team to build the café and set it out like we wanted, we made sure to have a nice seating area and created a table out of crates and fabric. Some of us even made a vase out of cardboard and flowers out of pipe cleaners for the table and a table number stand. This area is going to be lots of fun to play in.



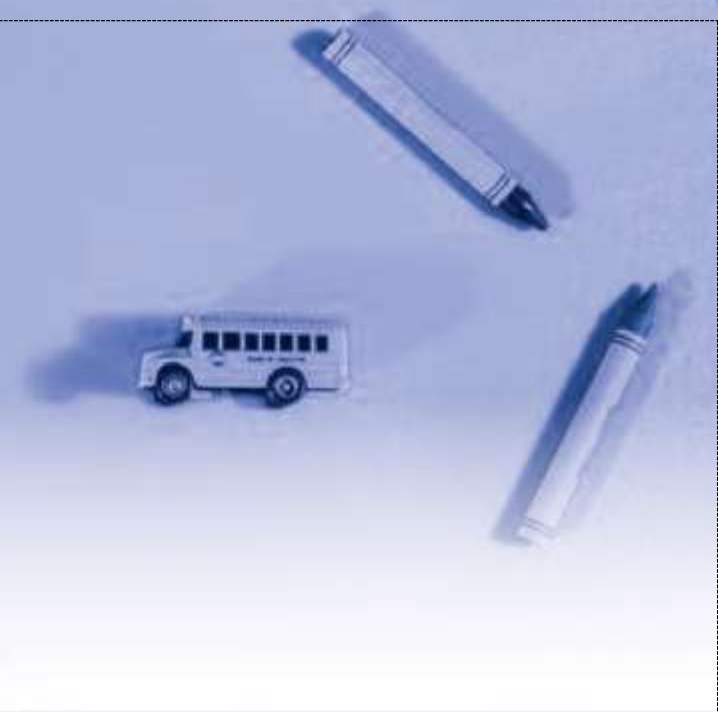


We have also been loving our small world area. Miss Burton has been making peg dolls for the area and it has become one of our favourite places to go. We love to come up with different stories involving superheroes, Disney characters and the colour monsters. She also made peg dolls for our Talk for Writing story Little Charlie. We used them to retell the story and make our own versions of it. Last week she turned the small world into Barr Village after we asked her to. We use our self-registration peg dolls to play in the village and draw our own houses for it. Then we placed them where they would be in the village, along with the church, shop, community centre and school. We also asked her to make some peg dolls for the staff in the school and animals found in Barr so we could play with them too. It is great fun, and super for developing our imaginations and storytelling skills.



We have been getting very creative in our construction area and art area. Our small world play has encouraged us to use our imaginations to create our own worlds using the construction materials. The designs are getting more and more intricate and evolve into full imaginative play and we have been developing our teamwork by building together. Through our art we have been loving our craft shop, where we can buy different materials from our cleaning earnings to use in the class. We love making pictures and taking them home, putting them on our wall area or giving them to Miss Burton. Our creativity has also been enhanced through our playdough table. We loved making Gingerbread Men after studying the story through our Three Read sessions and using the face materials to explore our feelings and make a selection of different faces. We even use our playdough through our role play area and use it to make lots of different foods to use during our play.

















The play area has some new jigsaws which we have really enjoyed completing. They are big jigsaws with 50 to 150 pieces in them and we are learning what strategies we can use to complete them. Sometimes we work as a team to build them which helps us develop our teamwork skills.



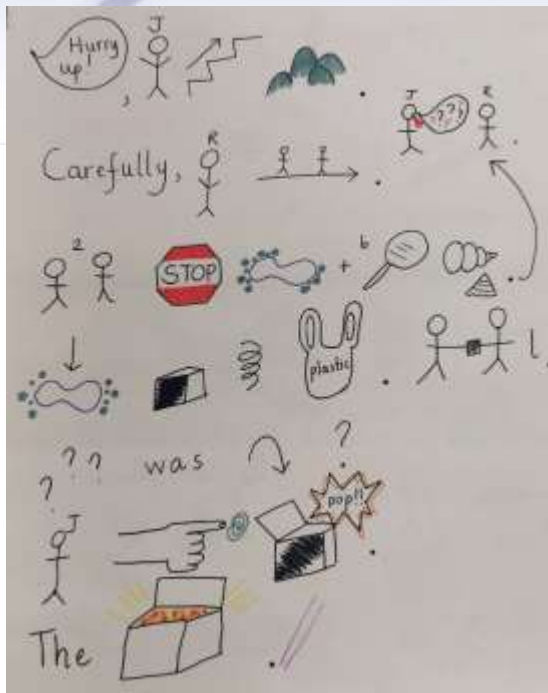
We have also been exploring different science concepts during play based. We noticed when water landed on a coloured piece of paper it made a rainbow and wondered if this happened with all ink. During play-based afternoon we used filter paper, water and different types of pens to test our theory. We discovered that the felt pens broke down easily in the water and that black was made up of red and blue, whereas the Sharpies hardly bled at all. We discussed why this happened.



# P4-7

## Talk for Writing

We have embarked on a new and exciting learning journey in our Literacy this term using 'Talk for Writing'. Our journey began with the discovery of a mysterious box of jewels wrapped in plastic under the shed in our playground. Coincidentally, we are exploring a 'finding' story called 'Adventure at Sandy Cove'. Thus far, we have been internalising our text - using story mapping and actions to recite it off by heart. Perhaps they might even tell you the story at home. The pupils have made an impressive start and we cannot wait to get stuck in to writing our own stories in term 2.



## Children's Rights – Refugees

Early into term 1, one of our pupils expressed their concerns for the current situation in Afghanistan. The pupil was keen to know more about the refugee crisis. After some whole-class discussion and engaging in Newsround updates, we began a class topic 'Welcoming Refugees' alongside reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. Pupils participated in a Refugee simulation activity in which they had to break into families and make many challenging decisions in order to empathise with real people across the globe facing these situations every day.



## Outdoor Fridays

We have loved the opportunity to get outdoors every Friday and feel especially lucky to have such an amazing local environment to explore. It has been wonderful to examine the signs of the changing seasons. Last Friday, we went on an autumn leaf scavenger hunt. We created nature mandalas in our 'outdoor tribe' groups and used our autumn leaves as stimulus for our artwork.









## Maths Play Day

We have introduced a 'Maths Play Day' to our week. This gives us an opportunity to apply in knowledge in games/activities/problem solving contexts. As 'Place Value' has been our focus this term, our first play day was all about place value, rounding and estimation. The feedback from pupils was really positive and we are looking forward to trialling more play days with different contexts.

# Place Value Play-Day (14/9/2021)

<p><b>Roll &amp; Stick</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in pairs/trios.</li> <li>• Take turns to roll the die and chose where to position each number in your place value chart. The player with the highest number wins!</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Partitioning Pyramid Race</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deal your cards to create a 3/4/5/6 digit number.</li> <li>• Race your partner to partition the number in a pyramid formation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Place Value Palace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Base 10 materials to create your castle.</li> <li>• Skip count to calculate the total value of your build.</li> </ul> <p><i>Extra: Can you round your castle to the nearest 10, 100, 1000?</i></p>
<p><b>Place Value Construction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create your own key for the <u>lego</u> blocks to represent H.T.U etc.</li> <li>• Build a creation and calculate the 'value' of your model.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Playing Card Place Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deal 3/4/5/6 cards.</li> <li>• Shuffle the cards and note down all possible combinations of the digits.</li> <li>• Order the number combinations from lowest to highest.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rolling with Place Value</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROLLING with Standard Form Whole Numbers – Ten Thousands</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p><small>Roll the dice 5 times to build a number in the ten thousands. Draw the dots for the dice in the boxes provided. Then, write the number in standard form.</small></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">●</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">●●</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">●●●</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">●●●●</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">●●●●●</div> <span style="margin-left: 10px;">= 24,465</span> </div> </div>
<p><b>4-digit target (problem solving)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in pairs</li> <li>• Arrange the digits in the five boxes to make four-digit numbers as close to the target number as possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Place Value Pirates</b></p> <p>IWB activity – locate the correct pirate using recall of place value.</p> 	<p><b>Rounding Shuffleboard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll your dice to create a 3/4/5/6 digit number.</li> <li>• Slide a bottle lid across the table.</li> <li>• Round your number according to where your bottle lid lands.</li> </ul>

## Growth Mind-set – Team Building

At the beginning of the new term, we read 'The Dot' by Peter H Reynolds. We used this story as a springboard for developing our growth mind-set and creativity. We understand that our brain is a muscle and that challenge makes it stronger. In teams, we have participated in various challenges in order to stretch that muscle and develop our 'can do' attitude. Here are an example of some these challenges – the tower and the cups challenge.

