



Froebel Garden Project gets started

You may remember that we were very fortunate to be awarded a grant from the Froebel Trust to develop ecological understanding through engagement with gardening. Helen is leading the project which reaches every age group at Annan.

Here is a report from Helen on the work so far...

We have had a lot of fun in the garden this term. We looked closely at seeds that were found in the wild and in our garden and marvelled at their forms, they were so diverse and beautiful. We tried to find out how they were distributed, and the wind blew in a gust to show us how the artichoke seeds flew around, others we realised were surrounded by very tasty fruit, like the ones in our apples. We saved seeds in envelopes for the Spring planting.

We also investigated the compost in our rotating bin, it was full of worms and smelt of fresh earth. We were amazed at how many worms were in there and wondered how they got there? The Infants couldn't believe that it had all come from garden waste and our left-over bits of fruit.

We have also been working on our garden beds, pulling out the weeds and the lemon balm, which was like the giant turnip as it took 6 Elders to pull it out! The Chestnuts enthusiastically created a new bed in the playground, they planted it up and created a new path to protect the bed from being run through at playtime.

This week we have been planting bulbs for bees and butterflies which will bring us colour and diversity in the Spring.

Elders learn to spin and weave

On Monday, Elder Class went to a workshop at Lewes Castle to improve their skills and knowledge of the history of spinning and weaving. When the children entered the workshop, they were astonished to see everything beautifully set out. They were greeted with warm smiles from Lynn the education officer and three friendly volunteers.

Lynn introduced them to how archaeologists know about the way clothing was made in the past. The class was split into four groups and worked together to try lots of different spinning and weaving techniques. They loved the hands-on experience, especially using the drop spindle, spinning wheel and the different looms.

(Report written by Elder Class children)





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 Froebel

Pizza and Prosecco Evening

What a treat parents had on Wednesday. The pizza was fantastic, and everyone enjoyed having a go at some of the occupations and having a chance to chat to other parents and staff. Over 40 people attended.

Mark's talk on the influence of Froebelian practice and ideas on Dickens and Enid Blyton was a triumph! A truly inspiring and enjoyable evening.



A hands-on week for the Chestnuts!

Chestnut Class picked apples in the orchard and turned them into scrumptious apple juice, yum!

They also started fixing up some old wooden toys from kindergarten, hoping to give them another life.

They also created lots of shapes with Froebel occupations, just like some of the parents did on Wednesday!



Willows make bread and butter

This week Willow's topic has taken them from the time of the hunter gatherers to the agricultural revolution of the Neolithic period. They learnt how life changed for people and the landscape as wheat started to be cultivated and found out that not all aspects of life improved for our farming ancestors.

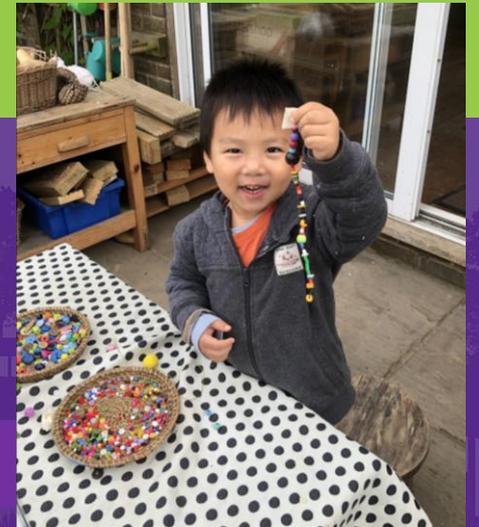
To go along side learning about farming we linked in a series of cookery sessions focusing on bread. The children learnt how to knead, shape and bake a variety of different types of bread from cob loaves to sourdough and flatbreads. They also learnt how to churn cream to make butter, leading to a very tasty lunch on Thursday!



Connected learning in Kindergarten



Alongside learning about their personal similarities and differences eg some have brown eyes, others have blue, green, hazel or grey, the Kindergarten have been demonstrating how connected they are as a group by working together to share equipment and to problem solve. They have done this by exploring Froebel gifts 3 and 4 and being VERY engaged with threading beads, conkers, leaves and other materials.





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Round houses in the woods

Oak trees have started making their own settlement of roundhouses out in the woods. They started by creating a circle of upright posts then weaving sticks between them to create the wall.

They gathered dried grass, bluebell stalks, dried bracken and mole mud on their way to our chosen site near the stream then collected water from the stream and added it to their mixture taking it in turns to jump on it.

The children then started to add the mixture to the walls of their houses. They are going to be working on their village settlement over the next few weeks.



Exploring old toys in Brighton

Sycamore Class had a wonderful time last Friday when they visited Brighton Toy Museum. The children went on a treasure hunt to find different toys around the museum, they found 'George' the Steiff bear who was 120 years old and 'Crazy Alice' the doll whose head was made from wax!

Everyone got to handle a variety of toys and order them from oldest to newest and they spent a long time observing and making the trains go round and round the track.

As a finale to their visit, they watched a marionette puppet show, what fantastic inspiration for their topic, Toys Through Time.



Menu for next week:

- Monday: Jacket potato, beans, cheese + hummus
- Tuesday: Pasta with tomato sauce, cheese + veg
- Wed: Falafel wraps with cheese and salad
- Thurs: Tomato soup and sourdough
- Friday: Packed Lunch

Dates for next week:

- Monday:
- Tuesday: Open Classroom - Sycamores
- Wednesday:
- Thursday:
- Friday: Elders Trip to Glyndebourne
Open Classroom - Oak Trees