



The Warbler- Wrens and Robins Newsletter

(part of our Bellbird Early Years offer)

Summer 2- Weeks 3 & 4

A Knightly Feast!

We are now lucky enough to have a class of knights in Wrens and Robins! So, we decided that the children ought to have a knightly 'feast' in their castle. The children learnt about Medieval banquets and there was much disgust at the lack of forks and plates- only knives and stale bread trenchers (plates) on offer! After turning up their noses at eating roast swan and wild boar, the children set about making their own messy banquet food fit for a King!



How to Hatch a Dragon...

We read the book 'Princess Daisy and the Nincompoop Knights' by Steven Lenton, about a princess who outwits some Nincompoop Knights and discovers that the much-feared dragon is actually a baby in need of a bottle and a bedtime story!

The next morning, the children arrived at school to find a very strange looking egg in the classroom. They used their powers of observation to look closely at it and to compare it to other eggs they knew about. After much deliberation, it was decided that this egg, belonged to a DRAGON! The children suggested that we build it a nest and then we consulted with the Dragon Queen who told us that the only way we could hatch it was by using magic fire!

Eager to hatch the dragon, the children made fiery art pictures by using red and yellow paint and colour mixed them to make orange. They made dragon nests filled with jewels and treasure and drew fiery dragon pictures out of charcoal. Lots of children wanted to write 'welcome to the world' letters using quills and real ink- the only thing to write with when you are a Medieval knight! The children's determination and perseverance when using the quill pens was a delight to behold. Well done Wrens and Robins! All their hard work paid off and the next day, the children discovered a baby dragon sitting proudly in its fiery, treasure filled nest!

Wanted: Dragon! After reading the book 'Knights and Dragons Unite' the children wrote wanted posters to advertise for a dragon to come and protect their castle. To help, we ran a drawing club for children to have a go at drawing their very own dragon. The children showed tremendous concentration, as they followed the step by step guide and their results were so impressive! Just to swell the numbers of dragons on patrol, the children made more dragons! They made scales with paint and celery and by overlapping paper circles on the dragon's body. They made their own fire breathing dragons and used tweezers to help the dragons find the treasure in the messy play castle.





Zog and the Flying Doctors: Who should answer the children's advert but Zog! We enjoyed reading both 'Zog' and 'Zog and the Flying Doctors' by Julia Donaldson. We made gold stars and wrote messages on them to help Zog to feel proud. Children then hid the stars for Zog to find. Children practised using their positional language to draw and write clues to help Zog find the hidden stars. Finally, Zog invited them to be part of the flying doctor crew! Zog brought in some sick animals in need of their attention. The children read what was wrong with them and then cured their ailments by writing them a prescription.

PSHE: The children examined our baby dolls as part of our PSHE and the dolls gave us special permission to look at the body parts that were under their pants. We thought about the differences between boys and girls and discussed our different names for more intimate body parts. We then practiced saying the 'doctor' names for these body parts. We finished by talking about how what is under your pants is private for you and we talked about who the trusted adults are that might need to see what is under your pants i.e. parents / doctors. We talked about the PANTS rules and sang the Pantosaurus song as part of the NSPCC's education programme. This helps children to understand that their body belongs to them and that they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Phonics

In phonics, we have been continuing to practise reading longer words with these different endings:

- -s making a /s/ sound like in starts.
- -s making a /z/ sound like in dresses.
- -es making an /iz/ sound like in splashes.
- -ed making an /id/. Sound like in floated.
- -ed making a /t/ sound like in scooped

I floated on a
bed and sofa

frighten
goose

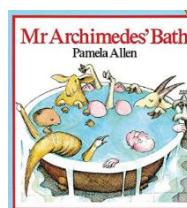
Book changes: We will be collecting in all reading books and library books next week. Thank you for reading with your children! Thank you also to our wonderful class librarians Mrs Betson, Mrs Woods and Mrs Ford who have helped us every week. 😊

Maths: We continued our investigations into sharing and grouping by methodically sharing different numbers of biscuits between two people to see if they would share fairly and equally. The eagle eyed children spotted a pattern- that the even numbers shared equally between two and the odd numbers didn't!

We spent last week problem solving using our Maths skills. We read 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' by John Burningham and used our addition to try and fill Mr Gumpy's boat with animals with legs totalling exactly 20. We then read 'Mr Archimedes' Bath' by Pamela Allen and the children had to predict how many stones we could add to Mr Archimedes' Bath before it overflowed. Next we read 'Who Sank the Boat?' by Pamela Allen and we experimented with making foil boats and predicted how many marbles we could put in there before it sank. The children were so reflective and they used brilliant vocabulary in their observations.

Things to try at home

Water displacement- Just like Mr Archimedes in his bath, get your children to notice the water level before they get into the bath and what happens to the water level once they are in. What happens when they get out? Why do they think this is? Why not make some foil boats to take into the bath with you and see how many things you can float in there before they sink!



PE: Our littlest learners have been practising their ball skills for the last few weeks. They have been learning to roll a ball to each other accurately, throw and catch carefully and they have been perfecting where to aim a ball to bounce it to a partner. We have seen super concentration and teamwork skills!

Emily S

