



Grafton Childcare



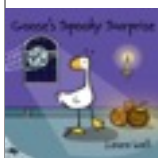
The Gruffalo & Room on the Broom - 2nd Oct. - 3rd Nov. 2017

2nd - 6th October 2017

Goose's Spooky Surprise

We shall be reading 'The Gruffalo' and The 'Gruffalo's Child' and the new Laura Wall book, 'Goose's Spooky Surprise' this week as part of our focus on Literacy.

Laura Wall is a very talented local author, why not pop along to her gallery in Teignmouth it really is well worth a visit.



Phonics Pots

2nd October - 'F' for Fox

9th October - 'G' for Gruffalo

16th October - 'O' for Owl

23rd October - 'M' for Mouse

30th October - 'B' for Broom

Please remember that all items must fit inside your child's Phonics pot with the lid on, so we do not lose any of your items at Nursery thank you.

Literacy

Reading: Writing:



Our topics for October will be loosely based around the two wonderful books by Julia Donaldson, 'The Gruffalo' and 'Room on the Broom' as well as lots of the books in the Winnie the Witch series written by Valerie Thomas and more recently by Laura Owen.



As always please remember to check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, which we will upload each weekend for the week ahead.
www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com

Last Wednesday Lara, Jonty and Denise took a group of children down to Jacksons the Fishmongers to purchase some Smoked Haddock for Thursdays lunch and popped into Poundland to check out their Halloween goodies. You may have read about their adventures on our Facebook page or last weekends blog.

We have now begun transforming the 'Kid's Shed' into our Witches Kitchen for the next six weeks and will be adding more bits and bobs, rats, spiders, potions and poisons so that it will help to bring to life the amazing Room on the Broom and Winnie the Witch stories we shall be sharing with the children over the next few weeks.



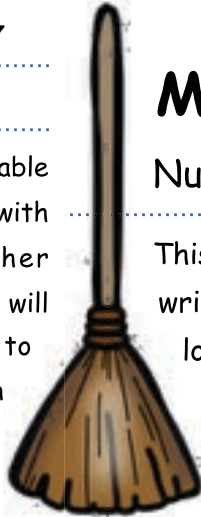
9th - 13th October - 2017

Measures

Before the children are able to 'measure' accurately with rulers, scales and other measuring equipment they will be given opportunities to explore what difference in length, weight or capacity (how much something holds) they notice in their play using sand, water, rice, sticks, lentils, and so on. The children will be encouraged to use measuring language such as 'bigger, smaller, shorter, longer, heavier, lighter, full, empty' as they play with our Water Centre in the front garden or our new Witches Kitchen, complete with a giant Cauldron in the Kid's Shed.

They will be asked to compare things according to measurements such as length, size, height and weight.

They will become familiar with measuring tools, such as tape measures, scales, scoops and buckets as part of their imaginative play when weighing out the ingredients for their spells and potions in our Witches Kitchen throughout the next few weeks. It's going to be Expialidocious!



Mathematics

Numbers: Shape, Space & Measure:

This is not just about your child's ability to be able to write sums and do 'adding and taking away'. There are lots of skills which your child will need to develop if they are to understand and make sense of their mathematical experiences as they go through nursery and school for example, children need to be able to explore patterns, sorting, matching and shapes as well as counting. At Grafton you will see...

Patterns

Lots of opportunities for the children to look for and form patterns, for example, by printing with sponges, lining up our sorting toys or arranging coloured bricks, threading beads or shapes. Mathematics is all about seeing the patterns in numbers so seeing visual patterns in real objects is a great building block learning.

Sorting

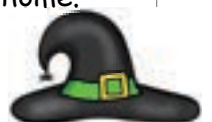
Lots of opportunities for children to find things that go together according to their size, shape, colour and other factors, for example, sorting a basket full of treasure basket items or our small world play items into sets.

Matching

Opportunities for children to find two things which have one or more factors in common, for instance, matching pictures or their favourite characters or matching natural objects such as conkers, pebbles, pine cones, blocks, Link a Lots and our design a Drill Sets.

Counting

Counting consists of several different subskills: Being able to count in sequence; being able to count movable sets of numbers and being able to count sets of non-movable objects. Read this weeks blogs for a whole host of ideas and games you can try out together at home.



16th - 20th October - 2017

Supporting Understanding of the World at Home

At home you could help support your child's Understanding of the World Development by listening to and responding to your child's questions about the world. Building on their natural curiosity is what early science is about so don't be afraid to say 'I don't know, let's see if we can find out'. You will not be expected to know all of the answers!



Give your child exciting sensory experiences in their play at home. For example, add fruit teas or cereals to home-made spooky slime, or give them some spoons and bowls and ask them to help you to mix the ingredients for a cake. Letting children play with their favourite plastic toys in the bath (without batteries of course) is an excellent way of exploring floating, sinking and the pouring properties of water.

Phonics Pots - The Gruffalo

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Understanding of the World

People & Communities: The World: Technology:

This area of learning involves building children's understanding of their wider world and encompasses elements of Science, Geography and History. It asks that children explore materials, people and places to make increasing sense of their own experiences. It also includes selecting and using technology for different purposes.

With our focus this week on Understanding of the World we will of course be planning our very own Gruffalo Hunt around Decoy Woods.

We provide lots of chances for your child to go on supervised walks and visits to places in the immediate vicinity of the Nursery by visiting local businesses, landmarks and places of interest your child will build up a good understanding of their sense of being part of a much wider community. For example recently we took the children on a trip down to 'Jackson's Fishmongers' in Queen Street and next week we have planned a trip down to 'Newton Abbot Library'.

More and more children are using their parents' computers, smartphones or tablets to play games, use apps, and watch their favourite TV shows. There are simple things you can do to make sure they're using the internet safely. Follow the link below and watch the video and learn how to keep your under 5's safe on the internet.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

Lara has planned some sensory activities using our sand, when we may be attempting to recreate our own cave drawings similar to those in 'The Gruffalo's Child'. Gary has planned some fun with our shaving foam & Snake, Owl, Fox and not forgetting Mouse. Lastly we will be introducing the children to our giant iPad where the children will be able to explore some of the apps we have found which link nicely with our topic.



23rd - 27th October - 2017

Grafton's Vax Commercial Carpet Cleaner

Over the past 26 years we have lost count of the number of domestic carpet cleaners which we have worn out and killed here at Grafton Childcare. So we have bitten the bullet and purchased a very swanky Vax Commercial Carpet Cleaner. Which is certainly up to the job of keeping on top of cleaning our carpets here at Grafton Childcare.

As a fundraiser for **Children in Need 2017** we are happy to loan our carpet cleaner out to our parents for a donation of of £20, for 48 hours usage. This does not include cleaning solutions, sorry! However we have found somebody selling the cleaning solution on Ebay for £9.50 for 5 Litres.

Speak to Denise if you would like to loan our Carpet Cleaner and help us to raise some pennies for this years **Children in Need**.



Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring & Using Media & Materials:
Being Imaginative:

This is the forth of our five week topic set around the two fabulous books by Julia Donaldson, *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*. During this week we will be enjoying *The Gruffalo*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, *Room on the Broom* and some of the *Winnie the Witch* themed books which are just brilliant and using all of the books to inspire our activities.

We have been creating a *Gruffalo* display which will be going up in the playroom once it is complete. The children will be creating their own purple prickles, and orange, green and black collages to add to our *Gruffalo* wall.

We shall be having a hoot with our musical instruments and using them to 'act out' the story. Hmmm will the children be able to be as quiet as a mouse, I wonder!

We have lots of fun planned this week in our 'Mud Kitchen' where the children will be creating their own gloopy, squelchy, squashy potions and spells.

Gary has planned a sensory activity with the characters from the *Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*, with some shaving foam and lentils, keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page as the photos will be amazing.

Last but by no means least we will be encouraging lots of imaginative play and creating our very own *Gruffalo* Cave in the front garden around the teepee.



30th October - 3rd November - 2017

Firework Top Ten Safety Code for Adults

Young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used.



- 1 Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
- 2 Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
- 3 Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.
- 4 Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- 5 Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- 6 Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- 7 Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- 8 Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
- 9 Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
- 10 Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.



Communication & Language Development

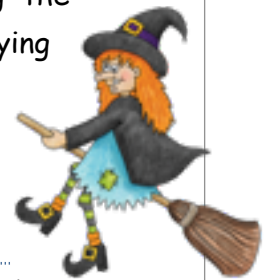
Listening & Attention:

Understanding: Speaking:

Our highlight of this week will be our reenacting the story of the 'Room on the Broom' with lots of props and our own giant broomstick seating outside in the Playground with all of the children.

We also have lots of sensory activities planned with our witches slime, spiders and creepy crawlies this is another one of Gary's secret recipes. We are hoping this will encourage lots of lovely rich language from the children, whilst enjoying themselves at the same time of course.

We shall be continuing taking groups of four children at a time up into our Kid's Shed which has been transformed into our Witches Kitchen for October and until the 10th November. Please remember to scroll right to the very bottom of each weeks blog where you will see a selection of photos taken during the previous week. You will see lots and lots which will have been posted over the previous month, showing the amazing fun the children have had roleplaying in our Witches Kitchen, it really has been a huge hit with both the children and staff and we will certainly recreate something similar next year.



Over the weekend of the 11th and 12th November we shall be transforming the Kid's Shed into our Jolly Christmas Post Office. If you have any of the following items at home which you would like to donate to set the scene we would be very grateful:-

New Envelopes - various sizes and colours

Small Boxes (Maximum Shoebox Sized) & Used Small Padded Envelopes and Postal Bags - which we can stuff as fake small parcels and the children can then post from our Jolly Christmas Post Office.

Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Autumn Term (2)

The Gruffalo				
Monday 2nd - Friday 6th October is 'Headcount Week' for ALL Funded Children Attendance is essential to secure funding for the remainder of this term.				
2nd October	3	4	5	6
9	10 	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27 
Half term for term time only children 23rd-27th October				
Room on the Broom				
30	31 	1 November 	2	3 
Paddington Bear				
6 	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17 
20	21	22	23	24
27	28 	29	30	1 December
The Jolly Christmas Postman				
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14 	15
18	19	20	21	22
Monday 25th December - Monday 1st January - Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Christmas Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January for the beginning of the Spring Term 2018.				