



12th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

What a busy time we have had with our learning in Nursery over the past fortnight!

We found out about Diwali – the festival of light. The children made diva lamps and learnt a new song:

“It’s Diwali, Festival Of Light
All the divas twinkle in the night
Sal Mubarak, Happy New Year
We’re so glad Diwali’s here
It’s Diwali Festival of Light
All the divas twinkle in the night”

You can see the lovely Cbeebies video “Let’s Celebrate Diwali” on the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-diwali>

Here is a selection of our Diwali pinch pot diva lamps and artwork:



For bonfire night the children made firework pictures and talked about the sounds and colours that we see when fireworks are set off. This led to hearing and learning new vocabulary, such as fizz, whizz, sparkles, etc. We also talked about firework safety.

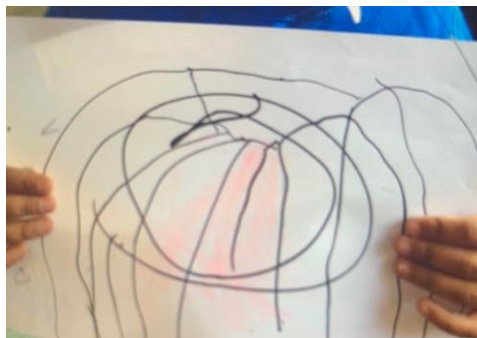
Our Spooky Day was a lot of fun! Here you can see a skeleton picture and a spooky spider made by our creative children:



We were able to count and check the number of legs on the spooky spiders!

The children have enjoyed exploring real pumpkins and we predicted what might be inside a pumpkin. We cut the pumpkin open and discovered lots of seeds. The children played with the contents and used words to describe the squishy contents of the pumpkin.

Some children chose to do observational drawings of the pumpkins:



Our key text over the last week was "Pumpkin Soup". This story helps the children to learn about sharing with others as the animals squabble over who wants to make the soup. We had lots of discussion about sharing and how we share in our Nursery too.

Please see images on the next page...



Story Characters



Come and tell a story



Our core text display

We talked about Remembrance and why we see people wearing poppies.

We watch a beautiful CBeebies animation about poppies. The link is here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv_ub7Be7oA

When the animation had finished we had a beautiful, touching, moment where all of the children spontaneously gave a very gentle applause. The adults had tears in their eyes!

We set up a transient art area and the children created their own representations using poppy colours.

The children also used their design skills to make poppies using straws and collage materials.



For week beginning Monday 15th November we will be reading the story of The Little Red Hen – we can't wait!

We have been happy to welcome some new children to Nursery over the last week.

Here is a reminder that we provide water bottles with lids with a photograph of your child attached. The children become quickly independent at self-selecting their water bottle when they are thirsty. The bottles are sterilised and re-filled regularly so you don't need to remember to send a drink in with your child unless they have a packed lunch.

As the weather will become colder and autumn and winter set in we ask that you send in a pair of named wellies for your child that will stay in Nursery.

We appreciate you continuing to encourage your children to attempt to become independent over time at putting coats on and taking them off but we are always available to help and encourage the children too.

Throughout the year we will be adding information and photographs onto the www.stjamesmanchester.co.uk website on the Nursery page so please do head over there and take a look over the coming weeks and months.

We would appreciate if you can send in a family "selfie" photograph for our family display in class. You can send the photo in to our Nursery email:

nursery@st-james-rusholme.manchester.sch.uk

If you do need to contact us we check the Nursery email regularly. However any absences from school or appointments need to be sent directly to the school office rather than to our Nursery email.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Afzal and Mrs Hunter

The Nursery Team