

Physical Development

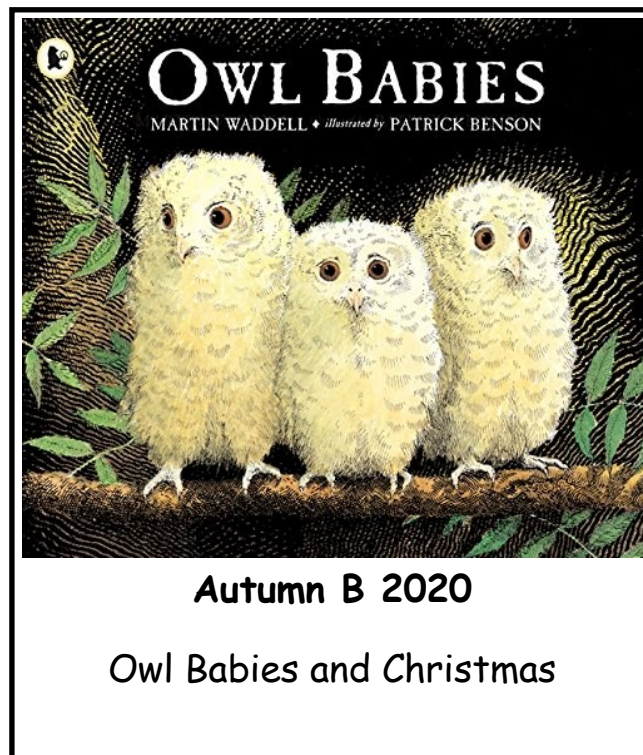
We will be working hard on our fine motor control with lots of opportunities for threading, sticking, using tweezers etc. These activities are designed to help us build strength in our fingers so that we can have better control with zips, buttons and pencils. We will continue to use big toys to build core strength and we look forward to being able to build large scale structures, obstacle courses and dens as we gain access to the full garden area. We will talk about health and hygiene when handling food.

Understanding the World

We will be looking at owls and their special features—nocturnal, heads turning etc. We will extend this to look at other species of birds and set up a 'hide' to help us spot wild birds outside the building. We will look at seasonal changes as Autumn turns to winter and talk about ways to help the birds in winter. We shall also be exploring light and dark as the days become shorter. This will link with the owls, being night creatures.

Personal and Social

The children have all settled in brilliantly and get along well together. We are going to be looking at ways we can work together to complete a task, and how we can settle disagreements. We will be encouraging appropriate, safe and creative use of the available resources. The children will learn to take responsibility for putting away resources they are finished with before moving on to another activity. We continue to develop the children's understanding of our 'Yes I Can!' motto alongside the animal characters which represent the characteristics of effective learning.



Communication and language

There's lots to listen to and talk about in our varied topics this half term. We'll be asking and answering lots of questions about our topic and enjoying listening to stories. We'll be working hard on listening to what others have to say and trying to respond appropriately. We shall also be talking about the characters and re-enacting stories with puppets and story stones. Through play, we will be encouraging more speech and extending imaginative games with small groups.

Expressive art and design

We're going to be very busy making and doing! We shall investigate paint and colour mixing, and plan and build models. We shall provide opportunities for the children to create their own artworks using clay, cardboard, paper plates, feathers and much more! The home corner will provide opportunities for role play and the 'bird watching hide' will link investigation skills and role-play activities.

Maths

We will continue working with numbers to within 5 then 10. We shall begin to look at Numicon shapes, and use these throughout the activities available. We shall continue to look at careful counting and saying one number name for one object. We will look at 2D shapes and use these to create patterns and pictures. There will be opportunities to explore time as we look at light/dark and day/night.

Literacy

We will continue to work on 'tuning in' our ears to hear the sounds at the start of words. We will use stories and traditional nursery rhymes to help us hear and identify rhymes. We will learn songs that link to our current topics and interests.

We will also be looking at different stories and non-fiction texts that link with our topic. We shall look at description and have opportunities to 'write' labels and speech bubbles together. We will compare stories and say which stories we like best, perhaps even giving reasons why.