

Dear Families,

Our focus this week has been on sharing, thinking about how we share at pre-school, how it makes us feel, and how it affects those around us. The children have really embraced this theme and have been working collaboratively in so many lovely ways. Whether it was looking at books with a friend, sharing ideas at the creative table, or using their imaginations to roleplay together, there has been a strong sense of connection and cooperation.

Our book, *Sharing a Shell* inspired a wonderful variety of creative activities in our classroom. We closely observed the different patterns and shapes on real shells, decorated shells, imagined the kinds of creatures that might live inside shells, and reflected on the idea that “home” is wherever the people you love are. One of the children’s favourite moments was a peaceful session spent listening to the sound of the sea in the shells. They described what they could hear and practised making the sounds themselves. It was a lovely way to develop both listening and descriptive language skills, while also tuning into the sounds of the natural world.

We had some slow moving but fascinating visitors in our pre-school garden planters, and on our weekly trip to Woodlands which we very much enjoyed! Snails! The children were captivated as they observed the snails munching on leaves, noticing their gentle pace and beautifully spiralled shells. Inspired by our tiny guests, we set out to learn more about them. Through our exploration, we discovered that we found two different types of snails, a garden snail and a white-lipped snail!

During cooking this week, we continued our shell theme and used pasta shells to make a delicious pasta bake. The children chose which ingredients to include in their bakes from a choice of tuna, tomato passata, chives and cheese. We hope they enjoyed eating them.

Book of the week: *Sharing a Shell* by Julia Donaldson

Song of the week: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

Makaton sign: shell

Sound of the week: “z” as in zebra, zip, zoo

We would like to wish you all a sunny half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back for the final half term of the year.

The pre-school team