

Dear Families,

This week, we have really enjoyed sharing *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming. The story has helped us to think about the changes we see in our environment during autumn and what happens to trees throughout the different seasons. We have talked about new growth appearing in spring, green leaves in summer, leaves changing colour and falling in autumn, and what trees might look like during winter. The children have become very good at remembering and sequencing these changes during our daily story times.

In PE, we have been developing our ball skills. The children enjoyed "taking their balls for a walk", learning to control them carefully and stop them from running away! They also fed our hungry hippopotamus by throwing balls towards a target. Working in pairs, they practised rolling a ball to a friend and using two hands to stop it, developing their hand-eye coordination and control.

Our autumn learning continued in Woodlands, where the children experimented with leaf rubbing. They searched for the Leaf Thief's missing leaves and explored holding their crayons on their sides and using controlled movements to reveal the different shapes, patterns and textures of the leaves. They chose beautiful autumn colours including red, orange, yellow and brown.

We have also been thinking about harvest in preparation for our upcoming Harvest Assembly. The children have created lovely pictures of fruits, vegetables, grains and things we might find on a farm, helping us to explore where our food comes from and what harvest means.

This linked perfectly with our cooking session, when we made delicious autumn pear muffins. The children enjoyed getting involved in the different stages of the recipe and, of course, we hope they enjoyed tasting the finished result!

Book of the week: *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming

Song of the week: Big Red Combine Harvester

Makaton sign: Wednesday

Sound of the week: Environmental sounds

We hope you are enjoying sharing your child's Choosy Book together at home this week. Please return it on your child's first day back next week, ready for them to choose their next book to bring home and enjoy.

Have a great weekend

The pre-school team