

New Parents - We hope this information supports your understanding of the creative video we present to you.

The film that you are about to see gives you an insight into the areas of learning

In all areas of learning assessment is based on what the child can do - this is through observations/working with your child/activities that challenge your child.

Literacy - part of this area is linking sounds to letters and to begin to read and write - at this time of the school year the children are now using their knowledge of sounds to write independently.

The first activity on the video is an adult-led phonics lesson and the children are responding to the adult, using their knowledge of sounds, they are segmenting words and then writing the word/s.

The next activity is showing how the children are writing independently, using the sound cards (in the middle of the table) to support their phonic knowledge. The children are developing their writing using sentences - then reading their writing to an adult and it is important that they can read their own writing, helping them to take understanding and ownership over the whole process.

The next literacy activity, is celebrating our love of books, it is part of book week. The children have come dressed as book characters and we immerse ourselves in story, retelling favourite stories and having lots of fun.

Number - children developing an understanding of number - understanding size of number, able to compare numbers, start to understand and use mathematical vocabulary - add, subtract, takeaway, minus.

The first maths activity is showing children independently writing their own addition number sentences. The children are generating numbers using dice. This particular group have a large and a small dice and they are able to count on from the higher number dice, when adding.

In the next activity, the children are playing a number game - how many objects can they put in the container before the sand runs out- good fun, sometimes the children are encouraged to estimate first, then count and comparing numbers with the rest of the group is also very important.

The next section is about shape -

Shape, Space & Measure - working with shapes - using various construction, understanding how shapes are all around us, part of our homes, shopping - cans (cylinders) cereal boxes (cuboids), understanding how to make 3D shapes using 2D, and describing shapes, understanding properties. Measures is also part of this area and covers a wide variety of mathematical concepts - length, width, height, weight and is often very practical.

The next activity, is a number scoring game, the children score points then add their scores, as a number sentence.

Physical Development - providing opportunities for children to be active and interactive as they learn- the top part of our outdoor area is purposefully kept clear for active, moving activities and the children love it, often making up games with rules. Using the bikes and scooters helps children develop control, maneuver and set themselves challenges.

Physical development is also about fine motor skills, how children develop their hand skills to control and use pencils, crayons, scissors. Children develop these skills in many activities, for example, enjoying play dough.

Children must also understand the importance of physical activity- and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Communication and language - opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a variety of situations.

Our snack time is purposefully a social time, where children relax and talk about their interests and adults support this area, as they join the children at a table, seizing the opportunity to extend the children's vocabulary.

Expressive arts and design - enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of resources and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role play, and design technology.

The activities are highlighting how the outdoor construction allows the children to be creative and imaginative and problem solve - brilliant resources.

The mud kitchen is amazing, allowing the children to mix materials together and make some lovely food - yum, yum. This activity also brings in lots of other areas, as they count and estimate, sell their food.

Our beach area - great for exploring materials and being creative.

The next activities, the children are designing and making a variety of accessories that interest them, for example, wrist bands and pizzas, which the children will sometimes sell in the seaside shop.

Understanding the World - guiding children to make sense of their physical world and community by providing opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people- their family/extended family, places, technology and environment. Whenever possible we go for walks around the local area.

Understanding lifecycles - we were lucky to have the 'living eggs' just before Easter, children and adults, loved to watch the start of new life, as we watched and evidenced their journey- from egg to chick, through pictures, paintings, daily child-initiated writing about their progress, until as the video shows, they were running around and trying to fly.

Planting seeds (Sunflowers), understanding what they need to help them grow and looking after them until the children take them home and continue to evidence their plant, sharing with the class how it is growing.

Personal social and emotional development - this area permeates all areas of the curriculum. It's about helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in; and to have confidence in their own abilities. A picnic is a simple example of this vital area.

Underpinning all the areas are learning characteristics
- playing and exploring

- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

We are so looking forward to meeting you and your children in the near future.

Mrs Dowling, Mrs Maddox and all the staff at St Bernadette's school