

UNDER THE CANOPY

Welcome to Newsletter No:3



This half term we will be continuing on with the theme of exploration

Exploration:

***"noun: the act of traveling to a place or searching a place in order to learn about it:
(Cambridge Dictionary)***

We would like to start by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your support in Autumn 2 and for all being such an important part of our "Stay and Play" community. The learning journey that we followed in Autumn 2 was amazing and we adore the fact that the children now have more ownership of the programme as they have begun to make suggestions about what they would like to explore and discover. Throughout Autumn 2 we delved deeper into the lives of a range of native species from bats, squirrels, hedgehogs to badgers. As we explored these creatures the children engaged in a wide range of activities and it has been such a joy to watch each of you scaffold and support their curiosities with so much skill. It is our hope that you the parents get as much out of these sessions as the children and also feel the benefits of connecting to nature, yourself and others.



***"What the New Year
brings to you will
depend a great deal on
what you bring to the
new year"***
Vern McLellan

Hazel catkins flowering in Mid-February

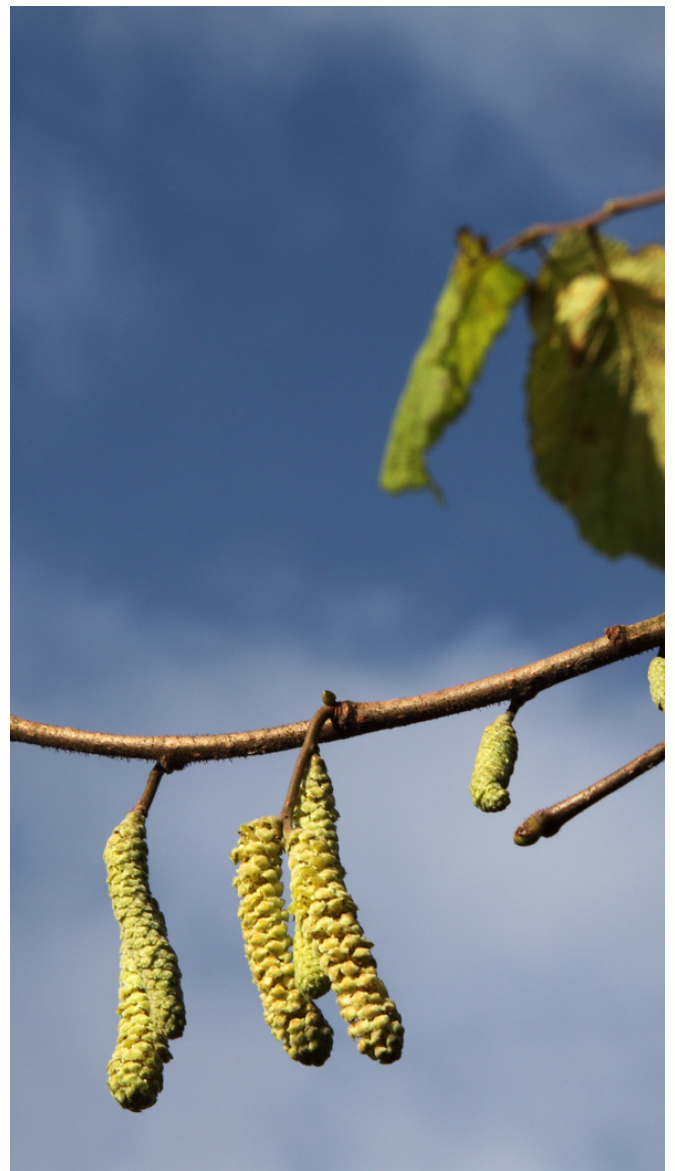


Our Spring 1 programme will continue to follow the overarching theme of exploration. Our plan is to introduce the children to simple maps, teach them how to use a compass and explore den building and the idea of going on adventures. As always we produce skeleton plans as we would like to draw in your ideas and suggestions.

January and February can be the coldest months of the year so it is really important that all children continue to come prepared and dressed for the cold. The dark nights will continue but after the 21st December (which is the shortest day) the nights will gradually recede but until we hit the month of March spring will still seem a long way off.

Once again we have included in this newsletter an activity that you might like to do with your child at home which draws upon and celebrates the marvels of winter. Ice art opens up a world of sparkling creativity and this activity suspends "found natural objects" in frozen blocks of water which can be hung from branches or twigs in your garden.

Thank you all again so much for your support it has really meant a lot, We look forward to sharing the learning journey that you take us on in the New Year and are so grateful that you have spread the word and enabled us to continue on with this group in 2024. We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.





Ice Mobiles

Glistening and shining ice art-is a source of awe. Transform liquid water into solid ice and back again. This natural alchemy is a joy to see.

This in an ideal activity to do in the winter- and allows you to explore and connect to this magical season.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A collection of objects to suspend in the ice from any natural environment.
- If it is cold enough you can freeze outside otherwise you will need a freezer
- Containers of various sizes or cookie cutters
- Water
- String
- Scissors



Directions:

1. Fill the selection of containers with water leaving space at the top for the water to expand into as it freezes
2. Drop in a selection of natural items into each container
3. Cut a piece of string that is long enough to tie onto a branch and leave both ends of the string dangling out of the water, with the middle loop section held in place once it has frozen.
4. If you wish drop some food dye into each container
5. Put your containers outside or in the freezer over night. The following day pop the frozen mobiles out of their containers.
6. Hang up your beautiful ice creations outside and watch them glisten and sparkle as they catch the light