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Summer Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers

Please find an overview of our fun and learning for our summer term.



Sensory Play Week

Our sensory theme was a *delight for the senses*! Children explored touch, smell, sight, and movement in a variety of ways:

- **Dinosaur slime, gloop, and cloudy dough** (cornflour & conditioner)
- **Paint mixing, sand, and water play**
- **Bubbles, cogs and wheels**, and sensory trays with beans and scoops
- A beautiful collaborative art project where children **decorated a tree log** with colourful textures
- **Croatian biscuit baking** and **Eid celebrations** with henna tattoo stickers



These activities supported **language development, emotional regulation, and motor skills** - all while having lots of fun!

Life Cycle of a Chicken & Father's Day

What an egg-citing week! We explored the **hen life cycle** with stories like *Chicken Licken* and *The Little Red Hen*, made **chicken crafts**, and even welcomed **real chicks hatching in our incubator** - a truly unforgettable experience! Children learned to care for them gently and patiently.

We also celebrated **Father's Day** by creating handmade tie cards and reflecting on our special relationships. The week included:

- Egg shell science experiments
- Farm sensory trays and role play
- Weetabix animal feed play
- Outdoor races and parachute games
- Visits to the big school library
- Cooking sponge cakes



This week was filled with teamwork, discovery, and excitement - nurturing both hearts and minds.

Exploring Summer

To explore the **summer season**, we compared sunny and snowy scenes, discussed **sun safety**, and created ice-cream crafts, flip flops with footprints, and **flowers in a vase**. Highlights included:

- Ice block toy rescue science
- Beach-themed sensory play
- Peppa Pig at the Beach
- Musical instruments from around the world
- Creating a car wash (and later a den and drawing space!)
- Paper boat making and sand art

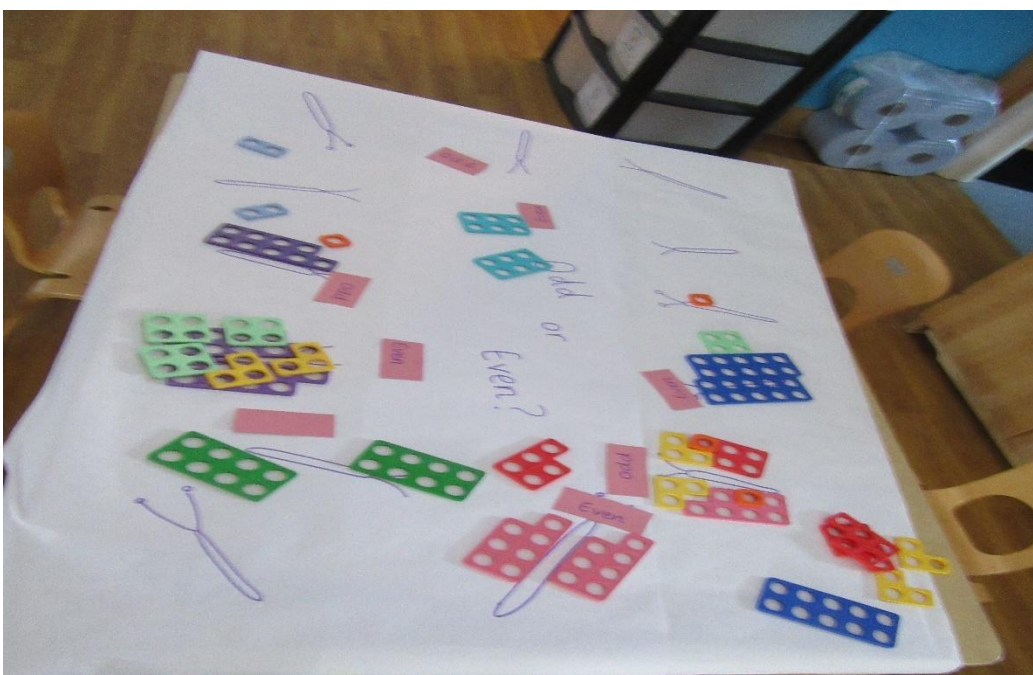
The children also watched beach videos, made observations, and expressed summer excitement through art and imaginative play.

Mark-Making Magic

Our final week focused on the many ways children express themselves through mark-making and early writing:

- Numicon-based maths art
- Doctor's role play with appointment sheets and diagrams
- Natural dye painting with beetroot, cabbage, and parsley
- Robot-making, deep sea bubble printing, and line exploration
- Outdoor herbal tea labelling, sand play, and an obstacle course
- Sports day favourites like egg and spoon races and balancing games!

This week nurtured creativity, fine motor skills, and early literacy - through exploration, expression, and invention.



As we near the end of an exciting term, we've had a wonderful time supporting the older children in preparing for their big move into Reception. Our creative, sensory-rich, and emotionally supportive activities have helped the children build confidence, independence, and excitement about the next stage in their learning journey. Here's a look back at what we explored together this term:

Transition Focus: Big School, Here We Come!

All About Me & My Feelings

We began our journey by exploring what makes each of us special. Using **persona dolls**, feeling faces, and the story *The Colour Monster*, we talked about emotions and built empathy. The children created their own "All About Me" posters and sang versions of "If You're Happy and You Know It" with emotional twists - a joyful way to explore feelings.

Getting Ready for Big School

Children practiced essential skills like using zips, opening lunch boxes, and buttoning up shirts. They designed **picture frames** to gift to their new teachers, role-played classroom routines in our home corner restaurant, and strengthened their fine motor skills with pencil control and scissor work.

My New School & My Feelings

We visited or viewed photos of our new Reception classrooms and created **maps and junk model schools**. The children made **crowns** to wear on transition day and created **3D paper sculptures** using colourful strips - exploring shape, form, and school readiness through creativity.

Building Confidence & Creativity

We finished our theme with **clay modelling, magnetic shape construction**, and thoughtful conversations about "what will stay the same" and "what will be new." These moments encouraged teamwork, reflection, and self-expression through art and discussion.

Reflecting on a Joyful Term

From chicks and crown-making to messy play and friendship talks, this term has been full of *growth, joy, and discovery*. The children have shown **resilience, creativity, and confidence** as they prepare for their next big step.


We are so proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to seeing them shine in Reception.

Next Term!

For our children transitioning to our morning or all-day sessions, and for those joining us for the first time - we re-open Pre-School on Monday 8th September!

We will open our entrance doors at 8.45am for our morning children and 12.15pm for the afternoon arrivals! Please queue alongside the building until we can open the doors!

Wishing all our families a relaxing and sunny summer holiday!

Thank you for your continued support. 

St Martin's Pre-School Team