

Messages:

Dear parents/carers,

We celebrate Christmas jumper day in school on Friday 11th December.

Please help us at home to improve our pencil control! If you have any question, please feel free to ask me.

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>



Listen to a story together.

Highlight of the Week: Making Salt Dough Decorations

Having missed out on the opportunity last week, the children were delighted to get their hands dirty today this morning making salt dough decorations in preparation for Christmas. They talked about the ingredients that they would need, as well as the tools that they would use to help them. Funnily enough, there weren't an awful lot of tools required, other than a bowl and a jug. Although, you could say that the most important tools that they used were their hands for mixing the ingredients, then kneading and rolling the dough. Salt dough is always a bit stiff, so the rolling did take quite a lot of 'elbow grease', but the children did a great job of getting the dough nice and flat before using cutters to make their shapes. The decorations have now been left in a safe place to dry, all ready for painting next week. Not only did the children really enjoy this activity, but it is also great for developing gross and fine motor strength to support their control of tools like pencils and scissors. It even helps to develop their understanding of the world around them as they talk about how the ingredients change as they mix them together. For these and many other reasons, we have chosen making salt dough as our 'Highlight of the Week'. You could try making salt dough decorations at home. Also attached is a basic salt dough recipe below. We hope that you have as much fun as we did today!

Salt Dough recipe

You will need:

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

1 cup water

Food colouring (optional)

Method

1. Mix together the flour and salt in a large mixing bowl.
2. If desired, add 5-10 drops of food colouring to 1 cup of water.
3. Stir the water into the flour and salt in the large bowl.
4. Roll out the dough on a flat surface and knead it together. It should be soft and pliable.
5. Make models and ornaments.
6. The dough can be left to air dry or dried in a low oven 120-150 C.
- C. The time the dough takes to dry will depend on the size and thickness of your creations.

Homework:

Practice at home with your children these Nursery Rhymes:

- One finger, one thumb keep moving

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-one-finger-one-thumb-keep-moving/zbtj47h>

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- The Wheels on the bus with Makaton signs
- Baa baa black sheep with Makaton signs
- We wish you a Merry Christmas with Makaton signs(please check on Google Classroom for the link)
- Five little ducks went swimming

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-five-little-ducks-went-swimming-one-day/z43xwty>

- Wind the bobbin up

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-wind-the-bobbin-up/z6cbnrd>

Children will be encouraged to use Makaton signs and their own actions to help remember the rhymes. Below are the links to the BBC versions of each nursery rhyme and PDF versions of the lyrics so that you can enjoy and practise them at home. There are also some flash cards to help the children identify which song they are going to sing. Have fun!