

October 3rd 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We are so excited to share some of the lovely things that the children have been investigating and exploring in the last few weeks. As many of you know, at our 30th Anniversary Celebration, we raised some money to develop our outdoor area. Over the summer Colin created a wonderful double-sided mud kitchen which has definitely been a big hit!



We have also added some new resources to the outdoor area which are all being used in very imaginative and creative ways.



FOREST SCHOOL

Over the last few months, we have been working really hard to be in a position to use our incredible Forest School space. We are absolutely delighted to let you know that Jess joined the team in September as our qualified Forest School Leader. Jess is also a qualified teacher. Jess has been working with Dawn (with a little help from Colin too!) to make the area inviting to explore with lots of different things to discover. They are taking small groups into the area every Tuesday and as you can see from the photos, lots of fun learning is happening already.



During their first forest school session, the children explored the environment with curiosity and enthusiasm. They showed high levels of engagement through active learning, particularly during risky play activities such as climbing ladders into trees and experimenting in the mud kitchen with 'treasure' glass beads. Children demonstrated creative thinking and critical skills during leaf printing with paint, making choices about colours and patterns. Throughout, they followed boundaries and rules with increasing independence, and reflected on their experiences, confidently sharing what they'd enjoyed most.



In the second week of Forest School we explored the boundaries of the forest by searching for soft toy birds that were hidden for us to find. We discussed the rules to keep us and our friends safe while at forest school and then got busy exploring. Some children were very engaged with the mud kitchen, moving glass beads and water between containers. The birds captured our imaginations, we fed the birds, collected them together to be friends and found a home for them in an empty bird box. The children thought critically and worked together as a team to hold the lid open and place the bird snugly inside. Some children were initially worried about climbing down from our tree but showed great perseverance by taking it slowly and trying again.

RAINBOWS – UNDER TWO YEARS OLD

We have been having a wonderful time exploring our environment both indoors and out! We have been engaging in lots of sensory play, exploring resources with all of our senses and being increasingly independent in our choices of the resources we would like to use. We have been concentrating on investigating how things happen and testing our theories by doing it again.



SWANS AND RAINBOWS – OVER TWO YEARS OLD

We have been very creative in our choices of media and materials in our mark making art and design. All of those wonderful ways of developing our upper body strength and gross motor skills to enable us to become expressive and creative story writers of the future.



We have also been having lots of fun exploring the environment and baking buns (which were delicious!).



BIKEABILITY

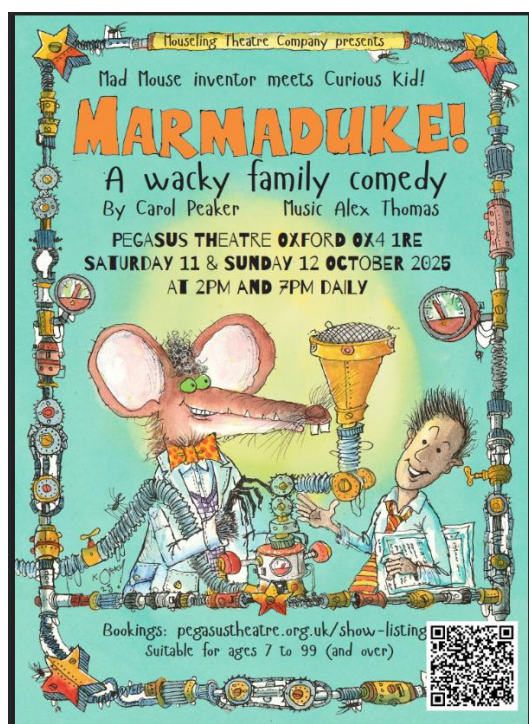
Bikeability has got off to a great start again this term with children of different ages and stages of development practising using the balance bikes to develop their skills and balance.



BREAKFAST SESSION FOR SWANS

In response to our Summer parent survey, we looked at our provision to see where we had potential capacity to support our families in new and/or extended ways. We are really pleased to confirm that we are able to offer some breakfast sessions for our Swans children. These sessions will begin at 8.30am and will include breakfast (please arrive before 8.45am to ensure you have plenty of time to eat breakfast. Sessions will need to be booked for a term at a time. We will be sending out more details to our Swans families next week.

FUN FOR YOUR DIARY - MARMADUKE AND AUTUMN ADVENTURES AT HILL END



FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY – SLUSHIES

We have received this guidance from the Food Standards Agency and been asked to pass it on to our families. Please use the QR code or speak to a member of the team if you would like more guidance on this.

OFFICIAL-FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

These slush ice drinks or ‘slushies’ contain glycerol

- Children under 7 should not consume these drinks
- Children under 10 should have a maximum of one 350ml ‘slushie’ per day – that’s about the size of a fizzy drink can.

Glycerol can cause sickness and headaches in young children



OFFICIAL-FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

More information on glycerol:

- Visit [food.gov.uk/glycerol](https://www.food.gov.uk/glycerol)
- Scan this QR code:



DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTION ROUTINES

FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING and FOYER - We are aware that it may feel a little uncomfortable but please can we kindly request that you do not let anyone else through as you go through the front door. This helps us to know who is in the building and to keep everyone safe, thank you.

INSET DAYS

As you know there are INSET days during the academic year. These days are spent with the team working together on professional development, subject knowledge and improving our environment. We have made a slight change to the days this year. There was originally an INSET day booked in for Friday 3rd October, this is now going to take place on Monday 20th July 2026.

As our hot meals are usually provided by the catering team at St Ebbe's the menu on Friday 3rd October will not follow the normal pattern. We will families with children attending on Fridays information about the planned meal next week so that you're able to choose to take up the offer or bring a packed lunch.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th to 31st October - Half term for Swans children

Please also see our curriculum plans for more details of what we are planning for this term. See attached and also see website for these.