

A winter wonderland

The new year has begun and with it comes cold wintry weather as we begin a new term at Hambledon Nursery school. Learning about the seasons is important under 'Understanding the World', a distinct area of learning for young children. Exploring in the Winter is a wonderful time to wrap up warm, get outside and explore the characteristic signs and features of the season.

The children have enjoyed looking for ice where water has frozen overnight. They marvel at walking across crunchy frosted grass and seeing what footprints, or wheel tracks they leave behind when riding a bike across the frozen ground.



At Hambledon Nursery School we are always seeking to find the adventure in our everyday learning opportunities. In the colder weather we have been exploring the inside space through hunting for paper snowflakes that were numbered to provide a mathematical challenge.

We have explored winter colours, shapes, textures and temperatures. The children loved painting ice cubes and exploring the paint as it changed with the melting ice.



We have investigated wintry weather and appropriate clothing, using our gloves to help us handle and collect ice or frozen leaves that glimmer in the sunshine. Discovering that their breath can be seen as a foggy cloud remains an exciting discovery when you are just two or three years old!

The children have been learning about changes to wildlife and plants in the winter. Collecting bare twigs and sticks and making yoghurt pot bird feeders to place in their own gardens at home. All the while expanding their vocabulary with new words: hibernate, snow, ice, bare branches, or evergreen.



We have several displays throughout the setting inspired by the winter season. A very snowy Gruffalo scene, a wintry 'Jolly Postman' display and collage made Robins, Blackbirds, and Pigeons to remind us of what we can do to help common garden birds to find food when it is scarce in the Winter.



Whether it be making playdough snowmen or hunting for 'treasures' to place in an 'ice craft' that can be hung up the next day as the 'treasures' freeze into the ice, the children have been embracing the cold weather and wanting to get outside and explore the special features of this beautiful time of year.

