A Week of Wonderful Experiments and Scientific Discovery!

For one memorable week in the summer term, our nursery is transformed into a hub of excitement, curiosity, and discovery as the children immerse themselves in a fantastic week of hands-on science experiments. Through exploring, predicting, observing, and questioning, the children in the red room became little scientists, experiencing the magic of science firsthand and developing a real sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.

One of the children's favourite activities was the now famous "Smelly Balloon" experiment. They were fascinated to watch what happened when bicarbonate of soda and vinegar were mixed. As the ingredients combined, a chemical reaction took place, producing a gas that travelled into a balloon and caused it to expand before their eyes. The children eagerly watched the balloon grow bigger, amazed that something they could not see could make such a big difference!

Another popular experiment involved our dancing raisins. The children watched with delight as raisins bobbed up and down in fizzy lemonade. We explored why this happened and encouraged the children to share their ideas and observations as the tiny bubbles lifted the raisins before allowing them to sink again.

Floating and sinking investigations encouraged the children to become scientists by making predictions before testing a variety of objects in a clear water tank. Would they float or would they sink? The children carefully considered their answers, tested their theories, and discussed the results together, developing important critical thinking skills along the way.

There were plenty of excited gasps during the explosive Mentos and cola demonstration! The children observed from a safe distance as Mentos sweets were added to a bottle of cola, creating an impressive fountain of fizzy liquid. This dramatic experiment sparked lots of questions and conversations about reactions and gases.

One of the highlights of the week was our magical glowing water experiment. The children watched in amazement as vitamin B2 was mixed into water and a torch shone through it, creating a mesmerising fluorescent glow. There were gasps of excitement as the water appeared to light up before their eyes. The children eagerly discussed why the water might be glowing and shared their own imaginative explanations, demonstrating fantastic curiosity and creativity.

Throughout the week, we also explored experiments that taught the children an important scientific lesson: sometimes discoveries take time and patience. One such activity involved placing celery stalks into coloured water and observing the changes over several days. The children made predictions about what might happen and returned regularly to check for any differences.

Their excitement grew as they gradually noticed the celery changing colour. This provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about how plants absorb water through their stems and transport it to different parts of the plant. The children discovered that not all experiments produce immediate results and that careful observation and patience over time is an important part of being a scientist.

Science experiments week is always filled with excitement, curiosity, and countless moments of wonder thanks to the hard work and efforts of our afternoon supervisor Gina Castle who prepares and plans the week. The children develop a confidence in asking questions, making observations, sharing ideas, and exploring the world around them. Their enthusiasm for all they get to experience in this week of learning is wonderful to observe and we look forward to many more opportunities for investigation and discovery at Hambledon Nursery in the future.