

# NEWSLETTER

Term One 2022



Hello!

Welcome to a new look Den.

I cannot believe we've already reached the end of term 1 – it feels like we've barely begun! We are delighted with how the new routine has settled and hope that you are finding the children as happy as we see them when they are with us.

I cannot thank the staff enough for working so hard to support each other and the children in finding new routines and settling so quickly.

Yet again we've had a bumper 7 weeks of activity - we hope you enjoy the pictures!

## ALL ABOUT ME

This year started with a lovely week of activities recognising the brilliance of all of the children! Activities involved getting creative with drawing ourselves (now up on The Den's class wall) and getting even more creative with funny face plates. There was a stunning evening outside making wooden dolls of ourselves and an evening spent making little books about us and our families. The children really loved recognising all of our collective and individual talents and qualities.



Primary Treasure Chest © 2011



The Green space is a new initiative at The Den that is used for outside play. It allows staff to provide a wider range of play activities for the children to choose from. Activities on the 'green' are kept on the green and can involve more contact with staff for play engagement or provide a space for children to play with more treasured equipment.

## The Green Space

## A Normal Day?

No two days at The Den are the same! But we do have our routines and overarching principles.

Children are collected from school and welcomed into The Den with the register and circle time. This often consists of sharing news, answering questions set by the staff and to let children know what the plans are for the night.

Then it's snack time—perfect to recharge after a long day at school before it's time to play!

We always try to get outside if the weather allows - play is both free flow and guided and there is a whole host of planned activities for children to engage with. As always—they are the most creative when it comes to a 'normal' evening of play!



# Welcome TO THE TEAM

We have been very lucky this year to be able to re-structure staffing at The Den. This has allowed us to bring in a wealth of new experience and a new energy to our setting.

**Mrs Anna Griffin - Owner and Manager of Setting**

**Mrs Jackie Stanfield - Manager**

**Mrs Amy Vickery - Deputy**

**Mrs Rachel Attride - Playworker**

**Mrs Cara Penny - Playworker**

**Mrs Katie Young - Playworker**

**Mrs Lucy Haskins - Playworker**

All contact for information about bookings, finance and general enquiries should continue to come to Anna and all day to day information should go to the managers at The Den.



I'm Mrs Vickery and I'm the deputy manager here at The Den! It's been so lovely getting to know you all. I've got a little girl called Gracie who has started reception, and a little boy called Elliot who is nearly 3. As a family we like to get out and about exploring and if I get any spare time I do love to get crafty and paint!

I'm Lucy! I am really enjoying working with the children at The Den.

After working in financial services for years, I had a career change. I have always loved singing and dancing and working with children so alongside working at The Den I also work doing music and movement classes and workshops for preschool children.

I live in Portishead and also have family in Clevedon. I have three daughters who are grown up now, one is still at secondary School, it seems like yesterday that they were at Primary school!

I also enjoy nature walks with my dog, spending time with family and going to some dance classes.



# Farewell to The Queen



We decided to hold our own farewell to the Queen in the days after the funeral. Understated but very appropriate to the needs of the children. They were warm and generous in their thoughts and enjoyed the party we held to celebrate her life.

Jam pennies and marmalade sandwiches washed down with earl grey tea - just as the Queen would have appreciated.

The children enjoyed a story from Michael Bond and shared their news with a cuddle from Paddington. Colouring and tea parties outside to finish the day. ❤️



## Outside Play

Unless the weather is really terrible we endeavour to go outside every session! This is really important to us, and even if it's just for 20 minutes it helps us all 'run off' the day.

We are sensible and do stay off muddy areas where possible but even the walk to the field can be wet.

We do have a selection of welly boots to borrow but we can't guarantee there will be a pair to fit everyone. If you are concerned about children's school shoes getting muddy, please send your child to The Den with a change of shoes/wellies.



## Space Week

This week was all about space and whilst we let the children have a lot of fun making and creating, we did use the time for some learning too!

We made use of the junk modelling for space rocket creations, made moon rocks as part of an outdoor messy play session and had a great competition after making rocket launchers to see how far we could shoot the into space!

An abundance of pictures overleaf...



Space Week

# Games Week and Fitness Day

It's was a really active week back at the start of term! The children were invited to join in with a whole host of games based activities and even had to create their own equipment! From beanbag and traditional games to junk modelling to make their own ping pong shooters and ball catchers! Such a creative bunch!

Fitness day was all about the children using the equipment to create their own fitness activities - I'll be out of a job they were so creative!

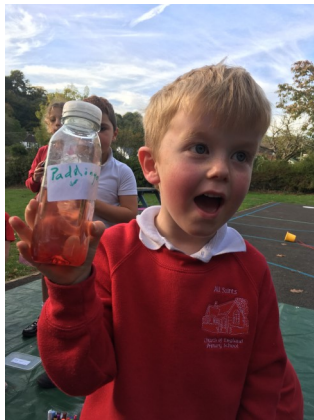


# Witches, wizards and Halloween!

What a way to finish the term! A fantastic week of fun playing all things Halloween!

We've made wands, light up mummies and hats, been creative with a whole host of craft activities to choose from. We've got creative with making spell books and our very favourite ....the children have been able to create their very own potions with a whole host of ghoulish ingredients....smashed bugs, spider eggs, witches toenails, rats eyes and cat brains! They looked rather lovely!







## **What's coming up next term?**

**Fun Fireworks Activities**

**Origami Week**

**Board Games Week**

**Paper Games Week**

**LOTS AND LOTS of FUN**

**And of course, 2 weeks of Christmas Craft!**

## **Magic Booking**

**We have now booked most families onto the new system.**

**Your next bill will be via Magic Booking and will be from November bookings onwards.**

**Credits from iPal have already been applied.**

**iPal is no longer being used so please delete any access to it and let me know if you do receive any emails from them.**

**Magic booking payments are spread out equally across each month - which we are hoping will help with budgeting for our families. You can pay via vouchers, card or standing order. Payments plans can be adjusted at any time.**

**The system has a saved card facility and you can opt for payments to be made automatically.**

**You no longer need to verify your payments. When you receive your reminder to pay your bill - please pay as normal and let me do the rest!**

**Login to Magic booking [HERE](#)**