



## News Story – International Mud Day

### Babies

Today we celebrated International Mud Day, and what a fantastic, messy, and memorable day it has been.

Our outdoor space was transformed into a mud kitchen where the children embraced all things squelchy and sensory. In the mud kitchen, the babies got creative cooking up their very own recipes using mud and natural materials. It was wonderful to see their imaginations come to life as they stirred, poured, and experimented with different textures and ingredients.

Our babies also enjoyed mixing and pouring mud into different containers, exploring textures and developing their motor skills through hands on messy play.

Indoors, we set up an exciting minibeast bug hunt, covering the area with mud. The babies were thrilled to discover hidden bugs beneath the surface laughing with excitement.

To round off the day, the babies also took part in planting flowers. They used small spades to scoop mud and transfer it into pots, practicing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination in a fun and meaningful way.





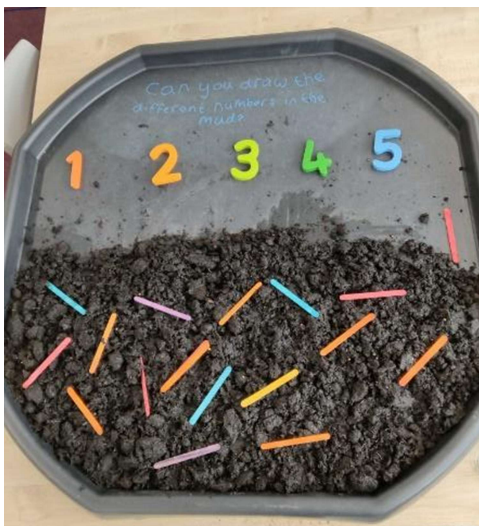
## Toddlers



The toddlers have set up various amazing activities, including a tuff tray filled with mud and tractors. The children enjoyed making different marks with the tractor. They were able to use the tractor to transport soil from one area to another, and whilst the children were playing with the tractors we talked about how the soil smelt, toddlers were able to tell Apa that it did not smell nice.

We also talked about how the soil felt. All the children took turns feeling the soil and were able to say that the soil felt "sticky and muddy".

On another tuff tray we had some soil put on one side and numbers on the other side. The children enjoyed recognising the different numbers from one to five. Toddlers were also able to recognise the colours from the lollipop sticks such as blue, red, green, yellow, purple and orange.



Apa asked the toddlers if they can use the lollipop sticks to draw the numbers in the soil. The children demonstrated great enjoyment as they made marks using the lollipop stick.





## Pre-School

Apa's set up several messy activities across the classroom. We used the tuff tray to put mud in, we added animals to create a farm to help children identify and name farm animals.

This activity was messy, creative, fun and children absolutely enjoyed it. The children demonstrated good fine motor skills, hand eye coordination and creative imagination, this helped their language and speech development and communication skills.

The children also made a mud picture, where they used brown card paper, brown crayons, brown colouring pencils and glue sticks, we also used yellow tissue paper to add into the picture to make it look messy and creative. Children enjoyed creating their own mud picture and enjoyed getting messy. Doing this activity we supported and encouraged them to use their own imaginative ideas and their thinking abilities.

Our preschool children also enjoyed mixing and pouring mud into different containers, using wooden spoons and pans to explore.

