

It has been a busy week preparing for Harvest Festival with lots of singing and rehearsing. We have made good use of our conkers with some sorting and counting activities as well as using them to cook with in the home corner and to make models.

### Literacy and Phonics

Most of reception are reading short words confidently now and recognising a range of sounds. They have made very good progress since the start of term and are ready for reading books to practice their skills at home.

Nursery can also name some sounds and we have all worked hard on story telling activities, making up stories that have a beginning, a middle and an end.

### Mathematics

Lots of counting this week. All our children are showing greater accuracy and saying the number names in order. We were also investigating numbers which add up to 10, and estimating how many in a set before we counted. This is important so that children develop a sense of approximately how many there should be before they count.

We also looked at big and small with our conkers and sorted them according to size.



Writing our stories outside in the den with the woodland animals.



Other news.....our creative challenge this week was to make a model by joining two things together. This meant we had to choose paper, glue or strong glue and find a way to attach our junk. We also planned what to make first so we knew what shape boxes we needed and we reviewed it afterwards to decide if it had worked the way we wanted it to. After a coat of paint our models were fabulous.

We also used our conkers and pine cones to do painting, by rolling them in paint then over paper. This was very messy and great fun.

At Woodland Workshop we explored deeper into the woods and had a great session developing our shoulder, arm and hand muscles by climbing and swinging in the big trees as well as our usual snack time and walk across the field.



Help at Home.....whilst reading to your children, stop occasionally and sound out the word instead of saying it. See if your child can work out what the word is by listening to the sounds. We call this blending and it is a vital reading skill. Keep practising counting whenever you can, moving objects as they count them to develop good habits.

Next Week.....Harvest Festival is on Thursday evening at 6pm at St Maurice's church in Ellingham village. We hope to see lots of you there as your children are working hard to prepare a lovely service for you.