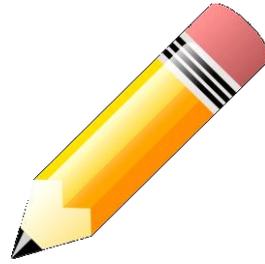


Early Years Update - Week 4



This week has seen our thinking move from 'Senses' to 'Feelings and Emotions'.

It made sense to move the children's thinking from Senses to the more abstract concept of Feelings, which is the biggest difference between humans and machines.

We talked about Feelings based on pictures of children, some of whom were smiling, some of whom were not. The children had some very interesting ideas of the reasons behind the emotions they thought the people in the photos were experiencing. We tried to explore a wider vocabulary than simple 'sad' and 'happy'... with some children being able to think of words such as 'cheery'. We have added words like 'melancholy' and 'chipper' to our 'Fancy Pants Words' collection!

We looked at finger prints and experimented with printing our own, using cellotape to 'lift' fingerprints from surfaces, and explored the meaning of the word 'Unique', beginning to understand the concept of everyone being different and special.

We read the book 'Gorilla' and explored the feelings and emotions throughout the story. The children could deduce quite a lot from the pictures and we also looked at the vocabulary that guided us to our conclusions. The children wrote sentences to accompany a picture of a caged Chimpanzee from the story, about how they thought he was feeling.

In Maths, Miss Fulwell bought a Bingo machine, with numbers up to 90! The children played for over 30 minutes and were very focused and enthused, working in pairs to get 'a line' on their bingo boards. There was good collaboration and talk going on throughout the game, which we shall play again soon.

In PE we listened to different pieces of music and reacted to it, interpreting it as 'happy' or 'sad' or 'angry' etc. through movement.

In Phonics we learned the digraphs **ar**, **or**, **ur**, and **ow** and the tricky words **no**, **go**, **look** and **of**.

Then of course, we had the 'incident' with the Cheeky Chimp! The excitement caused by the discovery of Police tape closing off the classroom on Thursday morning was palpable! The children were so focused on searching for clues, collecting evidence and fingerprints that we are hoping to continue the good groundwork that has started with their enthusiasm for the theme by looking at Right and Wrong, Fair and Unfair next week...