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Dear Parents/Carers

Woodwork in Big Nursery

We are writing to let you know that the children in Big Nursery will soon have the opportunity to engage in woodwork activities. The children will be able, in a very small group and under constant adult supervision, to use real tools as part of their work.

Woodwork is one of those really special activities that truly engages children and has a positive impact on all areas of learning and development. Children will be developing their physical coordination, fine and gross motor skills and hand eye coordination. They will be learning basic mathematical concepts, such as shape and measure and develop their mathematical thinking skills; they will be developing their understanding of the world – seeing tools as basic technology, understanding wood as a material and observing many scientific concepts such as the rotation of a wheel, levering nails back up or using a drill to drill holes. They will be developing their language with new vocabulary, using language to talk about their ideas and to problem solve; and children can develop their mark-making and drawing to express ideas on paper and also mark on the wood itself.

Working with wood develops children's self-esteem and confidence – it is really empowering for children to create with real tools and they take great delight in their achievements - it really develops a can-do spirit, and secondly it develops children's thinking skills – their creative and critical thinking as they problem solve and express their imaginations with wood and other materials.

In terms of safety, this is prioritised at all times. We put a Risk Assessment in place and adhere to strict guidelines such as the children wearing safety glasses at all times. An important part of children's development is that they learn to manage risk and make judgements to protect themselves so they are better able to make decisions in all situations that life presents.

Woodwork is also a wonderful activity to do alongside your child at home – tools make great presents!

We very much look forward to the children showing you what they have created – but remember the real outcome is the development within the child. As children work with wood they are learning skills that will empower them to shape their world - encouraging them to become the innovators, makers, sculptors, tinkers, engineers and architects of tomorrow!

Regards

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