Our theme this term is ‘Changes’. We have been looking at changes in our environment. Our theme of Changes is a lovely way to look at what is happening in the world around us as we move from winter into spring months. This can support children's seasonal understanding and the changes to the natural world. Spring is an exciting time of year with visible environmental changes that can help develop children's contextual understanding. We have been walking outside looking at what differences we can see outside such as leaves on the trees and the first signs of flowers starting to appear. The Checkendon pre-school garden continues to be a big hit with the children, helping them develop new skills including responsibility of caring for plants, understanding about cause and effect, what plants need to survive and flourish as well as nutrition and where food comes from. We have been observing new flowers appear every day, this has encouraged the children to talk about what is growing and the changes that are happening. We have noticed that our bulbs, that we planted in the Autumn, have started to sprout lovely long green leaves and have formed buds. Later in the week we noticed our first bud open and we now have some lovely yellow and purple crocuses. We cannot wait to see what other types of flowers will start to appear in our flower bed.

The children have also been celebrating World Book Day, joining in with well loved stories, by using puppets and dressing up as characters in the books such as the ‘Stick man’ and ‘Zog’. We have enjoyed lots of our favourite stories and learning how to take care fo books. We have also been listening to stories via Zoom with the primary school reception calss. This is a lovely way to practise our listening skills, and encourages the children to join in with key events and phrases in stories, as well as becoming aware of how stories are structured.

We have also celebrated Mothers day with the children creating some beautiful tissue paper flowers and making heart decorations, and lovely butterfly keyrings, which the children have all enjoyed. This year the children also recorded some songs for their mummies which we sent home for them to enjoy as they could not come to visit us this year. The children have had a brilliant time doing this for their mummies.

We have also been enjoying lots of Easter activites, creating Easter baskets, making cards and been busy hunting for Easter chicks, bunnies and eggs outside. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Checkendon pre-school has continued to be open during the covid pandemic and have continued to provide a nurturing, safe and caring place for the children to learn and grow.

The Checkendon ladies have worked tirelessly to maintain high standards of care within the pre-school, making sure that each child’s individual needs have been met and supported throughout this time.

On behalf of Checkendon Pre-School we would like to say thank you so much for the support from our Pre School families, local community and the Village Hall Committee who have supported us during this time. Thank you for your continued support.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School C.I.O, do visit our website [www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk), call us on 01491 682589, e-mail preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.

Kelly Mullins