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. **Understanding the World** (UW) is one of the four specific areas of learning in the EYFS framework. It involves guiding children to make sense of their physical **world** and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology, and the environment.

We have been very lucky to have been given some tadpoles to have at preschool.

The children have had lots of fun watching them swimming around. This has encouraged lots of questions and lots discussions. We have learnt about the life cycle of the frog, what they eat and how they grow and that frogs start off as eggs, learning lots of new words such as gills and frogspawn. As children develop speaking and listening skills, they're building the foundations for literacy and learning. Encouraging them to take turns, listening and asking questions as well as finding out the answers.

Communication is the foundation of relationships and is essential for learning, play and social interaction.  This is how we get to know each other, learn and develop language and build relationships. We encourage the children to talk and listen to each other, which helps them develop and learn as well as forging close connections. We have been enjoying lots of group discussions, which have followed on from the children’s interests and our Theme.

We have taken cuttings of the flowers from our flower bed and put them into the flower press, learning about the flowers and the names of the different parts of the flowers.

We have also been enjoying learning about ducks, geese and swans. Using google we were able to find out the names of the baby animals and what the mummy and daddies were called as well as what animals hatch out of eggs!

The children have really enjoyed these activities, which was then extended by drawing pictures of the tadpoles and flowers and baby animals, encouraging talk about their local environments.

We have also been learning about what reading is? Learning that books contain stories and information. We have been learning that letters make words and words make the stories. The children have been phonetically sounding out letters to be able to say simple words.

We have also been thinking about how to look after our books and resources.

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