

INDIAN QUEENS SCHOOL

"Where learning counts and everyone matters"

2009/2010 Year Overview for Minpins

We arrived at Minpins in September to welcome existing and new children. In the Autumn, we began a very busy term by learning some traditional tales. We particularly liked Goldilocks and the Three Bears which led us to a whole topic on bears. We sang '10 in the bed' and even found a story based on the song which became a firm favourite. We went on a bear hunt and held our very own teddy bears picnic. The children were involved in then planning their next topic of interest and they wanted to learn about special celebrations particularly celebrating the births of some younger siblings. We enjoyed watching a mum who kindly came in and bathed her newborn baby for us as well as dressing and feeding him. We learnt about each other's birthdays and celebrated Pup's 4th birthday as well as enjoying a jungle themed day with a selection of new tasty fruits to try. We drank 'jungle juice' which the children helped to make. It was really delicious! We were also lucky enough to get inside a fire-engine, watch the water being squirted and wear a fire-fighters hat. Our Christmas production was held outdoors and the children confidently performed Christmas songs and rhymes for the audience.

We began the Spring term after a bit of a delay due to the snow, by welcoming new children and sharing our snow news. We decided to spend time singing and dancing. We enjoyed watching the reception children dance for us. They taught us a new circle game too – 'The King is in the Castle' which is now a regular game that we enjoy playing. We turned our outdoors role play area into a bird hide and learnt a lot about the birds in our local area. Many families supported us by donating bird food and feeders and amazing bird houses. We now attract many varieties and have learnt how to look after our surrounding wild birds. We made our own delicious chocolate birds nests and thoroughly enjoyed eating them. We also enjoyed learning about space, including light and dark, shadows and using torches. We made our role play area into a Chinese restaurant, learnt about the Chinese New Year and sampled some Chinese food. We also learnt about many other festivals including Easter, St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day leading to a busy and thoroughly creative end to our term with lots of cooking, card making and fun filled celebrations.

In the Summer term, we once again welcomed new children to Minpins and had a lovely surprise to find a newly created 'amphitheatre' in our grounds and gently sloping access to our front entrance. This has made it easier for everyone to come in and out of Minpins. We have been very busy in the vegetable plot and have grown potatoes, strawberries, beans, cabbages, and Brussels sprouts, as well as a variety of flowers. We have entered the Royal Cornwall Show again this year with three exhibits and hope to be successful again this year. The children have been fascinated in watching the aeroplanes flying over head and have talked at great length about where they are heading to and from. They decided that they wanted to create an airport indoors and wanted to enjoy 'camping experiences' outside. We joined in with the schools puppet project by looking at different types of puppets; we had our own outdoor puppet theatre and enjoyed adding accompanying music, instrumentals and dance routines to our puppet shows. The children transferring to school in September have had many opportunities to spend time in their new classrooms and meet new friends and their new teachers.