STRONG CLOSE
14/10/26

From Alma's Art to Fishy Fun 🎨🐟



We began the day by painting some of the fish we had drawn last week. Using small sponges and watery, diluted paint, the children dabbed on different colours, watching them blend and mix together.
As we painted, P chatted about a recent outing- "We went to a thing with lots of stinky fish!" she told me, adding that there were seals, but they ate clean fish! She also explained that dolphins have long noses and made holes in the sponges where the fish live inside!
Later, once our fish had dried, we added googly eyes and sparkly sequins. While decorating, A told me he'd been given a sticker but had given it to A instead, how kind! He also shared some dinosaur knowledge, explaining that dinosaurs stand in the sea and eat fish and that the Spinosaurus stands with its feet in the water













As October is Black History Month, I introduced the children to the wonderful work of African American artist Alma Thomas, famous for her vibrant colours and rhythmic patterns. I showed M and J a photograph of Alma and some examples of her paintings



whilst looking at a colourful mosaic wheel I'd made, which reminded me of her work.
Inspired by her paintings of the sun and an eclipse, we drew large circles before heading outside into the sunshine to create our own interpretations. Using sponges and brightly coloured paints, the children explored dabbing, repeating marks, patterns and colour combinations, each developing their own individual approach. A, A, J, E, M, A, M and others all enjoyed experimenting with Alma's wonderful palette of colours.
A painted in his usual wonderfully laid-back style, sitting with his legs stretched out in front of him. "Look, I'm making all the colours!" he announced, followed shortly by "Look, Superman!" When I asked which colours he liked best, his answer was simply, "All of them!"
A, A, A and I tore colourful tissue paper into pieces, arranging









and gluing them onto the painted surface before adding a sprinkling of glitter. The glitter was, of course, particularly popular!





Continuing our sea theme, we attached a large sheet of paper to the outdoor fence and explored printing with stamps dipped in paint. A, M, E, A, J, M, L and A helped create a lovely, colourful collaborative piece. A returned later to enjoy some independent painting
Towards the end of the session, Yusuf joined in, enthusiastically exploring the paint with his hands and enjoying the tactile, sensory experience.







Finally, to round off our underwater adventures, I transformed into my Sea Goddess character to say goodbye to the children 🐠🫧