STRONG CLOSE
7/10/26
A Splash of Colour Under the Sea!



This week we began designing and creating a colourful new backdrop for our fish tank, with lots of drawing, painting and experimenting with different materials.
We started by looking at pictures of fish, observing their shapes, fins and tails before the children had a go at drawing their own fish using some lovely chalk markers.
I also brought along a rather special visitor — Big Mouth Billy Bass, the singing fish! The children absolutely loved him, particularly M,P, A and J, who were soon dancing along to his songs.
One of the lovely things about watching young children draw is seeing how they interpret the world around them. When drawing a fish from the side, the children almost always give it two eyes, even though only one would actually be visible. Understanding that an object looks different depending on which angle you view it from is quite a tricky concept at this age!
A was particularly certain about this, declaring, “It needs two eyes!” as he drew his fish.
There was also a lively debate between P and A about the colour of Nemo’s daddy. P was adamant that he was blue, while A was equally convinced, insisting, “No, no, orange!”
We then began adding washes of paint over our chalk drawings, creating some interesting









effects as the colours interacted. We’ll be continuing this next week.

At one point, I wandered around the corner to discover that A had been very busy creating an enormous painting of her own!
Not content with painting 2 sheets of paper, she had continued right across the board behind them, covering the whole area in a beautiful array of different shades of green.
The result was a magnificent, her creation that reminded me of a huge, leafy spring tree. A wonderful example of what happens when children are given the freedom and space to explore paint on their own terms!
Our next task was to create a large underwater backdrop for the










fish tank, using a big sheet of card and lots of lovely shades of blue
This year's group of children are particularly enthusiastic painters, and we had a wonderful turnout of budding artists throughout both the morning and afternoon sessions!
In the morning, A, M, P, A, A, J, M, A, A and L, amongst others, all got involved.
In the afternoon, B, H, P, L, I, H, A, J, M, A, K and A joined in the fun
The children experimented with rollers, large brushes, sponges on sticks and of course, their hands! They particularly enjoyed blending the different shades of blue together, watching the colours merge and spread across the card.

A and M were especially delighted with their bright blue hands, which, rather amusingly, matched their blue outdoor painting coats perfectly!
K was also busy painting and confidently announced that when he grows up, he's going to be a teacher and teach painting. Perhaps we have a future art teacher in our midst!
With paint still out and enthusiasm still high, the children moved on the finish painting the big cardboard box they had started previously
And after all that enthusiastic painting, the clean up crew was just as eager, armed with brushes, the children happily scrubbed away at the blue paint. It seems cleaning up can be just as much fun as making the mess!

Outside, we also explored some wooden shapes with coloured transparent inserts. These created lovely colourful reflections as the light passed through them.
P particularly enjoyed discovering that she could project the shapes of a butterfly and a ladybird onto her white top, watching the colourful images appear on her clothes.
P was certainly on form this week and kept us entertained with her wonderful theatrical performances. Throughout the day, she was spinning and twirling around, acting out scenes and quoting lines from Frozen.
She has such an expressive way of telling stories, using her whole body, voice and imagination to bring the characters to life. We were treated to quite a performance!
We're looking forward to seeing our underwater scene develop further next week!





