

THE KINDER NEWS

ALL ABOUT PRESCHOOL AT PAIN D'EPICE SCHOOL

MARCH-APRIL ISSUE 2026

Exploration !

Dear readers,

Welcome to the fourth edition of this year's Preschool journal.

This number covers the last two months of school. You will find the latest information about our current events and about our activities.

We hope you enjoy reading our paper as much as the team did in putting it together.

Editor, Claire LEWIS DUPORT

It's nearly Easter



Easter is around the corner.....



March – April outings, projects, workshops (p.2-4)

The children have been involved in lots of interesting **exploration** activities related to our annual theme "*From local to Global*".

Scientific exploration : Little Scientists at Work

Float or Sink?

The **Pandas and Koalas** classes have continued their exciting science discoveries this month with a “**Float or Sink?**” experiment led by Miss Meg.

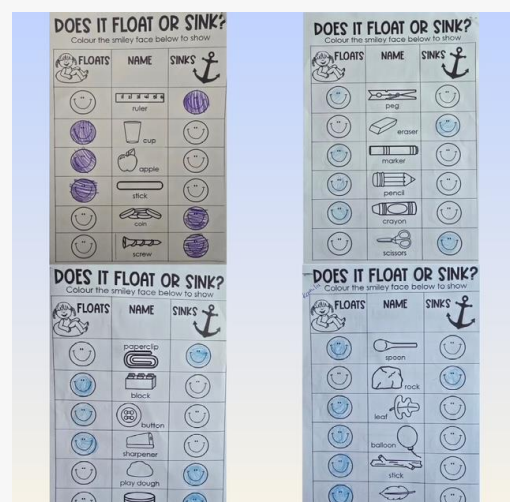
During this hands-on activity, the children explored what happens when different objects are placed in water. One by one, they tested a variety of items—carefully dropping them into the water to see whether they would **float on the surface** or **sink to the bottom**.

Before each test, the children were encouraged to **make predictions**, discussing their ideas with their classmates and explaining why they thought an object might float or sink. This helped develop their **scientific thinking, language skills and curiosity**.

Through playful experimentation, the children discovered that objects made from different materials behave differently in water. Some light objects floated, while others sank, sparking lots of excitement and discussion among our young scientists!

Activities like these and those on the next page help children develop **observation skills, critical thinking and a love for scientific discovery** from an early age. At EIB Pain d'Épice, we love seeing our students explore, question and learn through hands-on experiences.

Who knows? We may have a few future scientists in the Pandas and Koalas classes!



Exploring the Water Cycle with Miss Robbie



The children enjoyed discovering the fascinating **water cycle** with Miss Robbie. Through this fun science activity, they learned about **evaporation, condensation and precipitation**, helping them to better understand how water moves through nature. A wonderful way to introduce important scientific concepts in a visual and engaging manner.

Balloon Rocket Challenge with Miss Meg



With Miss Meg, the children took part in an exciting **Balloon Rocket Challenge**. As they watched their balloons zoom across the string, they explored the idea of **air pressure and movement** in a playful and memorable way. This hands-on STEM activity encouraged curiosity, problem-solving and lots of excitement.



A Volcanic Eruption with Miss Claire



Creating a volcano eruption

Science became truly spectacular with Miss Claire's **volcano experiment!** The children were fascinated to see the volcano erupt and loved observing the reaction unfold before their eyes. This fun activity introduced them to the wonders of **chemical reactions** while sparking awe and enthusiasm for science.

Body exploration : Little Movers, Big Benefits

Why Sport Matters at Age 3 Sports with the Squirrels 1&2



At three years old, children are full of energy and curiosity. Running across the playground, jumping in puddles, throwing a ball or balancing on a beam may look like simple play—but these moments of movement are incredibly important for a child’s development.

Physical activity helps young children develop their **coordination, balance and strength**.



Through games and sports activities, they learn how to control their bodies, gain confidence in their movements and gradually master new skills. Each small success—catching a ball, jumping a little higher, running a little faster—builds their self-confidence.

Sport also supports **learning and concentration**. When children participate in structured activities, they practice listening, following instructions and staying engaged. Movement stimulates the brain and helps young learners stay focused and ready to explore new ideas.



Just as importantly, sports help children develop **social skills**. Playing games together teaches them to wait their turn, cooperate with friends and enjoy shared achievements. These early experiences lay the foundations for teamwork and respect for others.

And of course, movement is also

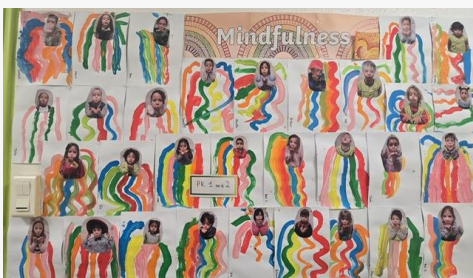


about **joy**. Physical activity allows children to release energy, express themselves and feel proud of what their bodies can do.

At EIB Pain d'Épice, we believe that encouraging movement from the earliest years helps children grow into **happy, confident and active learners**—one jump, run and laugh at a time.



Mind exploration in the Pandas & Koalas Classes



Creativity, Mindfulness and Kindness in the Pandas & Koalas Classes

This month, the **Pandas and Koalas classes** explored two beautiful projects that combined **art, well-being and positive values**.

First, **Miss Claire (Pandas/Koalas 1&2, teacher)** introduced the children to a creative activity inspired by **mindfulness**. Mindfulness simply means learning to **slow down, notice how we feel, and become aware of our bodies and emotions**.

During this project, each child created a colorful artwork representing calmness and positive energy. Using flowing rainbow lines around their photographs, the children explored movement, colour and expression while reflecting on how our bodies can feel relaxed and peaceful.

Activities like this help young children develop **emotional awareness, concentration and a sense of calm**, which are important skills for learning and well-being.

At the same time, **Miss Robbie (PK5)** guided the children through a wonderful **Kindness Art Project**. The students created colourful paintings while discussing what it means to be kind—helping friends, sharing, and taking care of one another.

Through art and discussion, the children learned that **small acts of kindness can make a big difference in our community**.

Together, these two projects remind us that learning at EIB Pain d'Épice is not only about academic skills. It is also about helping children grow into **thoughtful, creative and caring individuals**.



Reading Exploration : A Parade of Stories for World Book Day

Pandas and Koalas Celebrate the Joy of Reading



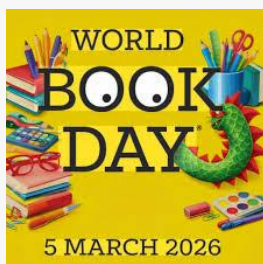
The **Pandas and Koalas** classes celebrated **World Book Day on March 5th** with a wonderful explosion of creativity, imagination and storytelling.

To mark this special day dedicated to books, the children came to school **dressed as their favourite storybook characters**. The classrooms quickly transformed into a lively parade of literary heroes, magical creatures and adventurous characters from beloved children's stories. Each costume brought a book to life and gave the children the opportunity to proudly share the stories they enjoy reading at home and at school.

Throughout the day, the children took part in **storytelling sessions, discussions about their favourite characters and shared reading moments**. These activities encouraged them to explore stories, develop their imagination and strengthen their love of books.

Celebrations like World Book Day are an important part of our learning at **EIB Pain d'Épice**, helping children understand that reading is not only a key skill, but also a **source of wonder, creativity and discovery**.

With so many characters stepping out of the pages of their favourite stories, it was truly a day where **books came to life in our classrooms**.



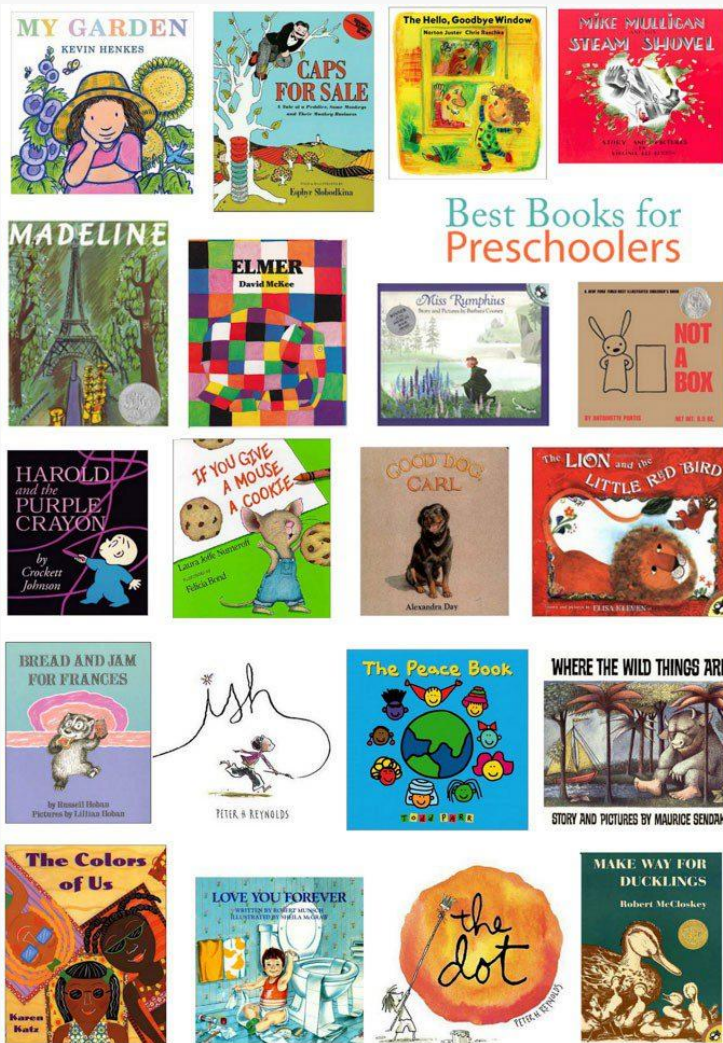
Pandas/Koalas 1&2



Pandas/koalas 5



Pandas/Koalas 3&4



Best Books for Preschoolers



Read, Imagine, Grow

World Food Exploration with Maîtresse Ghislaine's PKs 1&2

Pandas and Koalas Explore Culinary Traditions

As part of our school theme “**From Local to Global,**” Maîtresse Ghislaine’s **Pandas and Koalas** classes have been exploring the world through one of children’s favorite topics: **food**.

To help the children understand the idea of *local* and *global*, the class looked at dishes that represent our region as well as foods enjoyed all around the world.

First, the children discovered a famous local specialty: **Salade Niçoise**. They talked about the ingredients that come from our region—tomatoes, olives, eggs and fresh vegetables—and created their own colorful versions of this traditional dish through a fun hands-on activity.

Then the class travelled a little further! The children explored a dish known and loved across the globe: **pizza**. Using craft materials, they created their own pizzas, choosing toppings and assembling ingredients just like real chefs.

Through this creative project, the children not only practiced **fine motor skills and artistic expression**, but also began to understand that food connects people and cultures. From **our local traditions in Nice** to **international favorites**, they discovered that the world can be explored one dish at a time



A delicious way to learn!



Phonics Exploration with the Squirrels 1&2

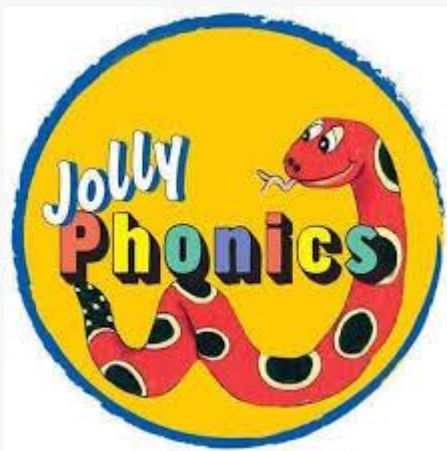
In our Squirrel classes, our young learners are beginning their journey into the world of reading through **Jolly Phonics**. During this activity, the children revisited **Group 3 sounds**, using a variety of objects that begin with each sound. Their task was to listen carefully, identify the initial sound of the object, and place it under the correct **sandpaper letter**.

Introducing phonics from the age of three offers many important benefits. At this stage, children are naturally curious about language and sounds. Through playful, hands-on activities like this one, they begin to **develop phonological awareness**—the ability to hear and recognize the different sounds that make up words.

Using **tactile materials**, such as sand letters, also supports multi-sensory learning. Children can **see, hear and feel** the letter sounds, which strengthens memory and understanding. This approach makes learning both engaging and meaningful for young learners.

Early phonics activities also build **confidence and independence**. As children begin to recognize sounds and connect them with letters, they take their first steps toward reading and writing.

At EIB Pain d'Épice, we believe that starting phonics early, through playful and interactive experiences, helps children develop a **strong foundation for language and literacy** while nurturing their love of learning.





Story Exploration : "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" with the Chicks and Rabbits

Why "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" Is More Than Just a Story

In many classrooms, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle is a favorite book — and for good reason. While it tells a simple story about a little caterpillar who eats his way through many foods, the book also offers important lessons for young learners.

The book helps children learn the days of the week by showing what the caterpillar eats each day. “It’s a fun way to remember what comes after Monday,” said one student reader.

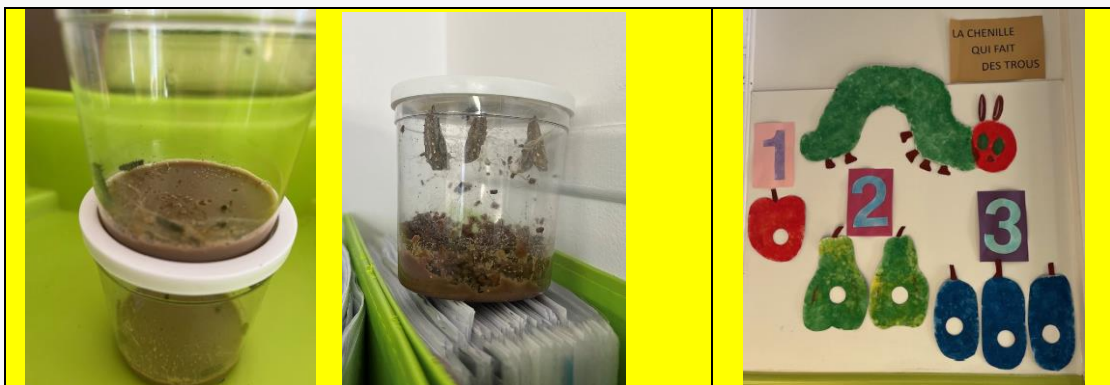
The book also introduces basic counting and encourages healthy eating. As the caterpillar munches through fruits, cake, and pickles, children see which foods are good for their bodies — and what happens when you eat too many sweets.

One of the most exciting parts of the story is when the caterpillar builds a cocoon and transforms into a butterfly. This real-life process, called metamorphosis, introduces children to early science concepts in a simple and beautiful way.

To make the experience even more real, Maîtresse Joëlle brought in live caterpillar eggs for the class to observe. Over the past few weeks, students have been carefully watching them hatch, grow, and spin cocoons. Soon, they’ll get to see butterflies emerge — just like in the book.

Illustrated with bright, colorful collage art, the book’s unique style makes it stand out. The small holes in the pages where the caterpillar eats add a playful, interactive touch.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar remains a classic among teachers and for the students, it’s a story that comes to life — not just on the page, but right in their classroom.



A Classic Story Exploration : Squirrels 1 and Squirrels 2



Building Foundations with *The Three Little Pigs*

This month, the **Squirrels classes** have been enjoying one of the most beloved traditional tales: *The Three Little Pigs*. Guided by **Miss Deanna with Squirrels 1** and **Miss Claire with Squirrels 2**, the children have been discovering the story through a variety of playful and engaging activities.

Studying a classic story like *The Three Little Pigs* offers many important benefits for **three-year-olds**. Repetition and familiar story structures help young children develop **language skills and vocabulary**, as they listen to the story, join in with repeated phrases, and begin to retell parts of the narrative themselves.

The story also introduces early **problem-solving and reasoning skills**. As the children explore how each pig builds a different house, they begin to think about **materials, strength and cause and effect**—why some houses stay standing while others do not. This naturally leads to discussions, predictions and simple scientific thinking.

Story-based learning also supports **creativity and imagination**. Through role-play, storytelling and art activities, the children can act out the characters, recreate the houses and bring the story to life in their own way.

Finally, traditional tales help children understand important **life lessons** in a simple and memorable way. *The Three Little Pigs* encourages conversations about **effort, perseverance and making thoughtful choices**.

Stories like this become a wonderful starting point for learning across many areas—from **language and early literacy to creativity, critical thinking and collaboration**. For the children in **Squirrels 1 and 2**, the adventure of the three little pigs is not just a story—it is a rich learning experience.



Care and Responsibility exploration : A New Classroom Friend

Chicks and Rabbits



A New Classroom Friend: Learning Through Care and Responsibility

Excitement has been buzzing in the Chicks and Rabbits classes as they warmly welcomed a very special new member to their classrooms — a hamster! Thanks to Miss Angélique, this small, furry friend is already making a big impact on our youngest learners.

Having a class pet offers many valuable educational benefits, especially for our early years children. First and foremost, it encourages **responsibility**. Even at a young age, children begin to understand the importance of caring for another living being — helping to feed the hamster, observing its needs, and learning gentle handling.

The presence of a pet also nurtures **empathy and kindness**. Children develop a deeper awareness of how their actions affect others, learning to be calm, patient, and respectful. These are essential social-emotional skills that support positive relationships both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition, the hamster provides wonderful opportunities for **hands-on learning**. Through observation, children explore basic scientific concepts such as living vs non-living, habitats, and daily routines. It also encourages **language development**, as children eagerly describe what they see, ask questions, and share their observations with friends and teachers.

Finally, the new class pet brings a sense of **joy and comfort**. The hamster has quickly become a reassuring presence, helping to create a calm and caring classroom environment.

At EIB Pain d'Épice, we believe that meaningful learning comes from real-life experiences. This tiny new companion is already helping our Chicks and Rabbits grow — not only as learners, but as kind and responsible individuals.



Growing Exploration at the Wednesday Mini-Club

At EIB Pain d'Épice, Wednesdays at the **Mini-Club** are always full of creativity, discovery and joyful learning. Carefully planned and prepared by our dedicated helper **Mélanie**, the activities are always welcomed with great enthusiasm by the children.



During this period, the children became **little gardeners** by planting **sunflower seeds** and creating their own **miniature gardens**. Through this hands-on activity, they learned how plants grow and what they need to thrive. The children carefully prepared the soil, planted the seeds and are now excitedly watching their plants begin to grow.

This simple yet meaningful activity encourages **patience, observation and curiosity**, while helping children understand the natural world around them.

To complement their gardening discoveries, the children also took part in a colourful **art activity**, creating **imaginary watering cans** with a fun **3D effect**. Using bright colours, painting and collage techniques, they designed beautiful artworks showing flowers being watered and growing.

These creative projects not only develop **fine motor skills and artistic expression**, but also connect beautifully with the children's exploration of **nature and growth**.

At the **Mini-Club**, every Wednesday becomes an opportunity for children to **experiment, create and discover**, turning simple activities into meaningful learning experiences.



**The EIB Preschool team wishes you a happy holiday.
See you back on 27th April for more adventures !**