

Dear Family: in class today, we experimented with trying to remove oil from bird feathers.

#### Did you know?

- Bird feathers have a center vane. There are lots of tiny spikes and thin threads on the feather vane.
- The spikes and threads fit together. They protect the birds.
- Birds comb their feathers. Birds use their beaks to keep their feathers in line.
- The feathers protect the bird's sensitive skin.

#### Ask your child:

- Describe what a feather looks like.
- What happened to the feather when it got wet?
- Explain how you removed the oil.

#### Vocabulary:

- feather – a soft and light part of a bird. Feathers grow from the skin. They cover the body.
- cover – something that is put on.
- protection – to keep something safe.
- barb – a small, sharp point.
- oil – a slippery liquid.
- preen – to trim and clean.

#### Activity:

With your child, go for a walk outside and look for birds. Count the different types of birds you see. Talk about how they are the same and how they are different. Talk about the different places you see birds. Look for birds that are preening their feathers or bathing. When you get back home, have your child draw a picture of one place they saw a bird. Send the picture to school to share with us!