**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 9th – 13th March 2020**

**Holi, colourful, sprinkle, blend**

Wonder words to use with your child:

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

The Hindu festival of Holi fell on Tuesday this week so we introduce the children to this colourful festival through watching the cbeebies programme ‘Let’s celebrate’ and through information books. The children were very interested – particularly in the throwing powdered paint at each other element of it! Instead of throwing it at each other they got the chance to throw it on huge pieces of cardboard outside. They worked together to paint the boards with water first and then sprinkled and threw powder paint to create beautiful colourful images. Exploration, language and observation skills were used in bucketful’s plus lots of team spirit – a lovely experience for all involved.

The children have continued to explore colour, becoming artists and scientists on Thursday where they predicted and then experimented to see what effect mixing blue powder paint with different coloured wet paint. The children were fascinated by the mixing process and became completely absorbed in sprinkling, stirring and then talking about what they could see happen. The children used the colours to create artwork, deciding what the mix of colours they had used made them think of ranging from ‘rain’ to ‘snow on a bottom’ 😊.

Water is ALWAYS a favourite sensory resource of the children and this week we had three different opportunities in our learning environment for the children to use it. The Starfish had an animal tea party with tea sets and flowers for the children to use in small world games. The home corner had the babies bath, sponges and toothbrushes which they children have greatly enjoyed using in their play around families. And finally, maths and physical skills have been developed in the builders tray with measuring cylinders, jugs, pipettes and bottles with different lids and levers. Lots of wet children but lots and lots of fun and learning!

**Out & About sessions:** We have had some fantastic sessions this week, all in different locations but all providing super opportunities for awe, wonder, interest, curiosity, perseverance and social development. On Monday we went colour hunting at the little woods and viewing area with natural colour wheels, plus had fun building bridges across the stream. On Wednesday we went down to the Little Beach to create pictures from natural resources, plus watching the construction works going on in the harbour. Thursday saw us at the Millennium Hall for a fantastic maths session with added ‘huff and puff’ exercises as well – budding mathematicians in the making!

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:***



This week we have focused on the Flying Fish being able to identify the middle and final sounds in cvc words (consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. hat, mud, top). This is a really tricky skill and one that often doesn’t develop until the children are a little older, but the Flying fish have smashed it! Through some fun games with Metal Mike and a ‘against the adult’ gameshow they practiced great segmenting and have proved how well their ears are picking up and identifying separate sounds.

The Starfish have had lots of fun taking part in scavenger colour hunts – using both natural and manmade resources and colour wheels to match colours to objects found. This has been a lovely way of encouraging careful observation skills and developing language around describing and explaining.

***Ideas to support your child at home:***

* **Challenge your child to a colour hunt at home. You can adapt it to the age and stage that they are at:**

**Young two year old - give them a particular coloured object and see if they can find something that matches that colour.**

**Slightly older children could be given a few objects or a piece of paper with different colours on that they have to find objects to match.**

**The oldest Flying Fish children could have a set number of e.g. red objects they have to find.**

*This is a great way of occupying them on a wet afternoon but is even more fun outside in the garden. The game helps children develop observational and early maths skills.*