**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 14th - 18th January 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been: **globe, climate, destination \***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

This week’s focus has been inspired by the children’s fascination with our new globe. They have been very keen to find specific countries and also find where we all live. A country they have been particularly interested in is Greenland (due to the name and the location of it we think!) and so we have used the internet to find out about the animals which live there and what the weather is like. Using this information we then created Greenland in our builder’s tray using ice. This has then led onto lots of small world play with the appropriate animals and exploring the effects of ‘melting’ with the ice. We even learnt how to say “hello” in Greenlandic (“aluu”) and it has been lovely to hear the children using this in their play with the Greenland tray.

Other great moments this week have been inspired by a drum from Senegal loaned to us by Eddie’s dad. The children have loved exploring the sound, beating out rhythms on it and making up ‘talking drum’ phrases with it. Using the internet, we were able to find some clips of Senegal drummers and dancers which the children were so inspired by that we all had a go ourselves at the way they danced to the drum beat – it has been great fun! Lots of happy faces and out of breath children (and adults!).

**Out & About sessions:** This week some of the children went on a expedition to the rainforest (aka Illogan Woods) for an adventure to spot different animals and challenge ourselves to climb and jump from logs and tree trunks. The children have been encouraged to be brave and try doing something they don’t usually do, such as jumping from something without holding an adults hand, all the time focusing them on assessing the risk.

**Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish children have been introduced to the letter sounds **‘a’** and **‘m’** this week through playing the ‘Sound Box’ and ‘Mix up bag’ games. These games are designed to encourage the children to tune into the initial letter sounds of words and match that sound to a letter shape.

The starfish have been working on number songs, giving them opportunities to develop their counting skills and using their fingers to show how many items in the song are left. We have also been reading stories with positional language in and encouraging them to join in with actions to develop their understanding of these words.

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

* ***Have a boogie! Use the internet to find music from another country and let your child listen to it, telling them which country it is from. Encourage your child to dance to it, moving their bodies to the rhythm and the feel of the music. If you dance too you will find that your child is much keener to have a go. Add some scarves and musical instruments too and let their creativity flow!***

*Don’t forget to bring in any holiday photos you have of your child for us to chat to them about.*