**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 11th – 15th November 2019**

**Transparent, solid, shadow, see through, blocks (the light)**

Wonder words to use with your child:

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

 The children have absolutely loved using their torches at preschool! They have enjoyed exploring dark nooks and crannies around the playroom and lobby, watching the effects of shining torches on surfaces and moving further away/closer, reading and sharing stories by torch light in the dark dens, and exploring the effects of shining their torches through/ on different natural and manmade objects on the shadow board. They have been particularly interested in the effects of shining their torches through our coloured Perspex blocks, discovering what colours can be created by putting two different coloured blocks together, e.g. red and yellow, blue and yellow. Their exploration, investigation and observation skills have had lots of opportunities to develop as well as some great sharing and turn taking with each other’s torches which has been really lovely to see.

The Flying Fish have created shadow puppets using 2D shapes, deciding on what they want to make and then selecting shapes which represented different parts of that character, (e.g. triangles for ears). On Friday we started using their creations to make up stories using the shadow board to act them out. The children have thought about what sort of character their puppet is and what sort of things they like doing – we have had some very amusing comments! We will be continuing to work on this next week also.

The Starfish have really enjoyed developing their role play with small world characters in the rice tray this week. There have been poorly animals and lost animals and it’s been delightful to observe the gentle and very caring attitudes displayed by the children in their response to the different animal’s problems. Caring, considerate citizens in the making!

**Out & About sessions:**  A week of no Out & Abouts – again!! We are despairing of the weather! So difficult to plan what to do when the showers come so suddenly and heavily, and the wind blows so strongly. And then we finally had a better day on Friday – we had no signal on our mobile phone so it wasn’t safe to leave without it! Ho Hum! Fingers crossed we will enter a more settled phase of weather within the next few weeks.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The sound and letter **S** has been a focus for the Flying Fish this week, with the Sound Box helping developing their listening skills to tune into same sound words. We have also had fun making up names to go with our bag of animals – linked to our own names where possible. The children have really enjoyed this and many are beginning to hear when two words begin with the same sound.

The Starfish have been focusing on positional language whilst shining their torches in different places in the dark. Words such as ‘in between, through, underneath, on top of, across, beside) have been used as well as simpler concepts of ‘up, down, top, bottom, on and off’.

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

\* *All children to seem to love torches**– they make great presents! Encourage them to use theirs to explore dark places in the house or play I spy in the dark. (E.g. “I spy a tree”, if you are in the garden, and your child uses their torch to shine a light on the tree, or “I spy teddy”, if you are in their bedroom, and they find their teddy). In both games use ‘****position****’ words (e.g. behind, on top of, next too, underneath) to describe where it is, or where to shine the torch, which will help develop their vocabulary.* **\****Older children might be interested in whether they can shine their torch through objects or not. Use the words* ***solid*** *or* ***transparent*** *to describe why the light goes through or not.*