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

**Autumn, rustle, scrunch, collecting**

[This Photo](http://veseleklupe.wordpress.com/2013/09/17/%D1%98%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%B5%D1%9A%D0%B5-%D0%B8%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B5-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B0/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)

Wonder words to use with your child:

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

 We have embraced Autumn this week and made the most of autumn leaves in many of our play & learning experiences. The builders tray has been full of beautiful coloured autumn leaves, and sticks covered in lichen in which many bugs and insects (pretend ones!) have been hiding. The children have had to dig under the bark to hunt for specific numbers of bugs and their numerals – providing them with opportunities to develop their number recognition and the quantity which goes with each numeral.

Our ‘5 Autumn Leaves’ song has been great for supporting counting practice and developing awareness of what ‘1 less’ means whilst also developing their finger muscle strength as they try to work out how to hold up the correct number of fingers. They all love the ‘ooooooo’ part of the song and happily copy this speech sound – an important skill in supporting their articulation of speech sounds.

 The Farm Shop has continued to be open, with the added items of a real set of scales, plus the balance scales. The children have explored how the real scales work and having a go at reading the numbers on them. We have also included a huge calculator in the shop which, again, has been explored with enthusiasm and interest. It’s been a fantastic way of encouraging numeral recognition and sparking an interest in numbers.

Possibly the most favourite activity of the week however has been the collaborative autumn colours painting paper. The children have used rollers and sponges to create an autumnal backdrop to our leaf pictures. The sensation of rollering and squishing the painty sponges fascinated many of the children and fingers and hands soon became submerged in paint! Words like squelchy, slippery and smooth were being used by them to explain the sensations – a perfect example of how real life, hand on experiences impacts on children’s vocabulary.

**Out & About sessions:**  Yippee – we managed three Out & About’s this week – a record for this half term! All of the Flying Fish children have enjoyed ‘Out & About’s to Illogan Woods, in the sunshine, to hunt for autumn treasure. We linked our trips to the story ‘We’re Going on a Leaf Hunt’ which we sang as we walked. We hunted for leaves of different colours, explored the movement of helicopter seeds, counted acorns and searched for the ‘acorn cups’ or ‘hats’ (as the children called them!) to fit on them. The children also spent time challenging themselves to climb and balance along a long tree trunk that we found. It was great to see their self-confidence developing as they mastered how to do it.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish have been mastering their rhyming skills in our ‘Cross the River’ game (you can only cross if you holding an object rhyming which rhymes with the one in the river) and Rhyming bingo and pairs. These games have really tested the children’s listening and attention skills as they follow the rules of these new games plus use their developing rhyming knowledge.

The Starfish have been focusing on emotions, recognising theirs and their friends and naming them. They have also talked about why people might be feeling happy or sad. They have also been practicing their number and counting skills by singing the 5 Little Ducks song, following the song and putting up the correct number of fingers.

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

 *\* Please practise singing our ‘5 Little Leaves’ song at home with your child (as on letter handed out this week), encouraging them to use their fingers to show how many leaves are left.*

*\* Enjoy collecting treasure to fill your Autumn Treasure bags! Talk to your chid about the things they have put in their bags, supporting their language by modelling new words to describe or name things.*

*\*Have a lovely half term!!*