**![C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\A48P5GDS\halloween_pumpkin_jack_o_lantern_2[1].png]()Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 28th October – 1st November 2019**

**Hollow, Divali, festival, pumpkin**

Wonder words to use with your child:

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

 The children have really enjoyed sharing the contents of their Autumn Treasure bags with us, explaining about where they found them and selecting their favourite item from the bag. The items have been great for developing the children’s vocabularies, plus providing some lovely natural resources to add to their play experiences – we have had leaf cakes and a swamp for the animals being created among other things!

Halloween has been a hot topic of conversation this week – with lots of talk about ‘trick and treating’, costumes and pumpkins The children have helped prepare our pumpkins for carving, predicting how many seeds we might find inside and describing the sensation of feeling the squelchy inside of the pumpkin. The children suggested different shapes which they thought would be suitable for creating the pumpkin’s face and we learnt a new pumpkin song about shapes as well. We have observed what happens when we light the candles inside the pumpkins and talked about how we can keep ourselves safe when pumpkins are lit up.

The festival of Diwali has fallen during this week. This is known as the festival of light and is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs across the world. An important part of social awareness in children is for them to understand that not all people have the same life experiences as their own. This understanding is the beginning of developing tolerance and respect for others views and experiences and prompting an interest in the world outside their own home. With this in mind we have introduced the children to the story and traditions which are associated with Diwali and have let the Flying Fish children watch the Cbeebies programme ‘Let’s Celebrate Diwali’ which gives a child’s view of how Diwali is celebrated in their own home. The children also watched a shadow puppet show about the story. We have also talked about the similarities between how Diwali and Christmas are celebrated.

Other favourite play experiences this week have been the potion making tray and rice tray. The children have snipped, mixed, crushed and poured ingredients to make potions all week long. We have had people turning into many different animals, becoming invisible and being able to fly! **Out & About sessions:**  No sessions this week due to the weather and staffing.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

Potion making has been the focus of our Letter and Sounds focus this week with the Flying Fish. They have had to use their rhyming knowledge to work out the missing ingredients in the Witches Potions, and have also used them to create their own potions.

The Starfish have been developing their listening skills whilst watching the Divali shadow puppet show. They have also been learning a pumpkin counting song which also encourages them to think and talk about emotions.

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

 *\** Let your child watch the cbeebies ‘Let’s Celebrate’ programme about Divali which you can find on their website. It provides a lovely view of how Divali is celebrated by a British family and is a great opportunity to talk about differences and similarities between families.

\* The Starfish have spent the past few weeks practicing how to read facial expressions and use the correct word to describe the emotion. This is an important part of developing their social skills. You can help support this at home by encouraging your child to look at the faces of characters etc in stories and talk about how they might be feeling , plus recognising members of the families emotions through their facial expressions.