**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 21st – 25th January 2019**

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

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

Our ‘Around the World’ theme has continued this week, with the children spending time looking at artefacts from around the world (and guessing what they could be), choosing holidays in our ‘Travel Agents’ and exploring the animals of Kenya in the builder’s tray. Many thanks to all the parents who have loaned us objects from other countries. The children have been fascinated by them and they have generated some great discussions and thinking.

The Travel Agents role play area has been very busy with many holidays being booked on the computers and telephone (always hilarious to see how children roleplay working on the computer!!). Many children have practiced mark making skills by filling in the booking forms and the holiday brochures have prompted much talk about activities they would like to do on holiday.

Our builder’s tray has been home to the ‘big five’ of Kenya, and the children have enjoyed small world play with them in our African savanna. We have even learnt to say hello as they do in Kenya – “Jambo!”

Last weeks interest in ice and melting (in our Greenland tray), inspired us to freeze paints for the children to use in the Creating Area. This proved very popular and has expanded the children’s experiences of melting, plus also providing an unusual painting experience.

Finally, Thursday’s children made ‘Explorer biscuits’ – following a recipe used by explorers who go on expeditions in the Artic and Antarctic. The children had to use their skills of measuring, rubbing and following instructions to create them and were very inspired by the name and use of them (if not by the taste!).

**Out & About sessions:** We were explorers this week when we went on an adventure in Illogan woods to follow a different path that we hadn’t been on before. The children discovered a great area to play and explore, with lots of opportunities for challenging themselves physically. We then took the ‘high’ path along the back of the woods, where the children were in awe of the view and how high up we were. There were lots of ‘wow’s and discussions about being as high up as the tops of the trees, plus leaf sliding and a new song learnt!

**Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish children have played games with the letter sounds **s,p,a,m,**to reinforce their recognition of the letters and skill in identifying initial letter sounds. They have also been practicing writing their names using their ‘writing’ name cards.

The Starfish have enjoyed using the drum from Senegal to beat out the rhythms of their names and how they are feeling.

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

* ***Older children - If you have been on holiday to anywhere and have photos of it share them with your child and talk about which country you were in and what the weather was like. Talk about the type of things you did in that country (e.g. skiing because it was a cold climate and there was lots of snow).***
* ***Younger children – Play ‘Going on holiday’ with them and let them pretend to pack a bag. Many children love the act of filling bags up and transporting them from one area to another, pretending to go on holiday. You’ll be surprised with what you find in the bags once they’ve finished though – just hide your car keys before they start!***