**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 22nd – 24th July 2019**

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

A short but busy week with lots of water play, fit and fun challenges and helpful children sorting and cleaning our toys and resources ready for the new term in September!

We have made the most of the hot weather with lots and lots of water available for washing babies and animals in, using in water ramps and boats and – most fun of all – splashing in! Wet but happy children and an ideal way to cool down in the heat! We try to involve the children in tidying and sorting duties at pre-school as it helps give them a sense of responsibility and pride in their environment. On Tuesday the children helped us with the big task of cleaning the chairs with bubbles and sponges. There was a real sense of purpose and team spirit as they cleaned and they were very proud of the end result.

On Wednesday we were able to pick some of our home grown peas! After reading the story “Princesses don’t eat peas” (an alternative story based on the traditional one) we decided to check the ripeness of ours and discovered there were enough to have one pod each. The children explored the best way of popping the pods and counted how many peas they found inside. Even the most reluctant ‘pea taster’ had a try of their peas and everyone agreed that home grown peas are the best!

**Out & About sessions:**  On Wednesday we took lots of the children (both flying fish and starfish) to the new play park in Portreath. The children had great fun using hoops in the new astro turfed football area (It’s huge! So much room for running around!) and also in exploring the new equipment in the play area. It really is worth a visit.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

Lots of sharing of the Flying Fishes favourite stories this week – they have so many! Every single Flying Fish child has left pre-school with a huge love of books and a great ability to talk about the stories or information which is being shared with them. This is such a great skill and interest to have and will really help with their ‘learning to read’ development.

The older Starfish are very excited to be ‘moving up’ to being a Flying Fish and this week we have made their new name labels and photo name cards. The children have already begun identifying which name card (without photos) is theirs from looking at the initial letter.

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

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Enjoy the summer holidays! Have lots of fun, get outside and make the most of all we have on our doorstep (or further afield) and keep active. But don’t forget to keep up the sharing books through the summer too – remember it’s one of the best ways to support your child’s development in so many areas of the curriculum. For those of you who will be returning to us in September – don’t forget to fill in the Summer Sharing Books Challenge Sheet and bring it in on your first week back.