**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 25th –29th March 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been: **Springtime, blossom, buds, stems, petals, tadpoles, frogspawn\***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

What a wonderful week of weather for focusing on the change of seasons to Springtime! The children have enjoyed thinking about how we know spring has arrived, what the signs of spring are and finding out about our newest addition to the preschool crew – tadpoles!

The tadpoles have created lots of interest, inspiring close observations and using information books to find out the answers to our questions about them. The children have been fascinated by the process they go through to turn into frogs. We only hope some of these ones do! They have been very keen to look after them carefully and ensure that others are following the rules about how to do this as well.

Sarah Clasper from #LovePortreath came in on Monday and Wednesday to make reusable shopping bags with the children. The sewing machine prompted lots of questions and using the pedal required co-ordination and control. It was very tricky but the children were determined to master it so that their bags could be made. Many of the children then used their bags in the games they were playing and were very proud of what they had helped create.

Making pizza was requested again by the Baking Buddies this week so mixing, kneading and chopping was practiced to create Mushroom and pepper pizza.

We hope you all enjoy your Mother’s Day cards – the children had great fun in the process of making them! When you open them ask them to tell you about how they created the patterns. . . .

**Out & About sessions:** Out & About sessions were held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week. The children searched for signs of spring on the walk to and in Illogan Woods. We spotted wild garlic, primroses, bluebells, daisys, celandines and lots of blackthorn blossom. We also had great fun exploring a new area by the stream in the woods – with a waterfall! There was lots of problem solving involved in trying to get our sticks to go down the waterfall and not get stuck in the rocks.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:** We have continued to work on practising the skill of ‘blending’ and ‘segmenting’ the sounds in cvc words (consonant-vowel-consonant words, e.g. hat, pig, top) with the Flying Fish. The children have enjoyed playing ‘quiz show’ games of the children against the adults in trying to work out what the robot word could be. They have been very competitive!

The Starfish have spent time observing the tadpoles, finding out about what they will change into, listening to frog and tadpole stories and singing the 5 Little Speckled Frogs song with props.

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

* *Make the most of the lovely weather, (whilst we have have it!) and take your child for a walk, or out in the garden, to look for signs of spring. Use the wonder words of the week – blossom, buds, stems, petals to point out things of interest. If they find anything interesting please do bring it in.*
* *Sing the 5 Speckled Frogs song, encouraging your child to put up their fingers to represent the frogs and counting each time one more has jumped into the pool. You could also use everyday items to represent the frogs, e.g. milk bottle tops, sponges. Singing this in the bath with objects would be lots of fun too!*

5 little speckled frogs,

Sat on a speckled log,

Eating a most delicious bug,

Yum, Yum.

One jumped into the pool,

Where it was nice and cool.

Now there are just 4 speckled frogs.

Glug, glug

*(This is our version – yours may have different words!)*