**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 24th – 28th February 2020**

**Mixture, ladle, whisk, flip, toss (the pancake)**

Wonder words to use with your child:

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

Pancakes, pancakes, pancakes – oh how we love pancakes at preschool! The children have, unsurprisingly, been very inspired by Pancake Day – it’s a topic that they all have been able to talk about and share their opinions on toppings and mishaps with the making of them at home 😉.

On Shrove Tuesday all the children helped to make the batter for the preschool pancakes. It was a great team effort and there was much excitement, laughter and discussing about what to do next. All the children helped with weighing, measuring, egg cracking and whisking. We then held a ‘Pancake Party’ and all sat down to eat our pancakes together – choosing different healthy toppings to put on them. We have had a ‘favourite topping’ tally chart which the children have added to over the course of the week and counted the tallies to discover that chocolate is pre-school’s most favourite topping!

The story of ‘Mr Wolf’s Pancakes’ has been shared throughout the week. It’s a great story with a surprise twist at the end but ultimately demonstrates that helping others is the right thing to do. What has been lovely to observe, through talking about and discussing the story, is how strongly the children feel and understand this concept.

On Friday we shared the story of Mama Panya’s Pancakes – a story set in Kenya and great for supporting the children’s awareness of other cultures and similarities in our experiences. The pictures provoked lots of talk about the differences in our houses, shops and villages and why this is. There was lots of laughter and some great ideas for what might happen if we had cows, goats and chickens wandering through Portreath!

After a few weeks of being in the cupboard the home corner has made a welcome return to the playroom! As ever, when resources are put away for a little while the way they are then played with when they reappear is always with a renewed interest and we often notice a change in the way they are used – illustrating the developmental leaps the children are making. There has been lots of pancake making and eating play, plus some wonderful roleplay games being played in groups by the Flying Fish children – some lasting for over two hours!

**Out & About sessions:**

A fun session at the park this week on Wednesday, helping to develop those skills and muscles that we can’t always do with the equipment we have at the preschool. The children are becoming so confident with their climbing skills now. All of them are now having a go at challenging themselves to stretch further and climb higher and are demonstrating great agility – important for both confidence building and physical strength and flexibility.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:***

The Flying Fish have consolidated their skills of hearing initial letter sounds by playing ‘The Pancake Game’, sorting toppings according to the pancake’s ‘sound’. Lots of giggles about some of the mixtures it’s created! They have also been practising the formation of the letters we have learnt so far by writing them in the air, on each other’s backs and also on whiteboards. We are amazed at how well they are all remembering them and their confidence in wanting to have a go at forming the letters. Remember there is no expectation of them needing to know ANY letter sounds before they start primary school. We very much go at the pace the children set and we do all of our phonic experiences through games and play so the children don’t even realise the learning they are taking part in. If something is fun then they are much more likely to take in it.

The Starfish have loved flipping and tossing pancakes whilst singing an action pancake song. They have also shared the story ‘Jack’s Pancakes’ which has been great for talking about where the eggs, milk and flour come from. Our ‘5 Crispy Pancakes’ song has also been sung to support their number development.

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

* Sing the ‘5 Crispy pancakes’ song with your child, encouraging them to find different things to be the pancakes. They could choose 5 toys to each take a pancake – which is a good way of supporting their understanding of quantity.
* Let them have a go at flipping a pretend pancake (a circle of card makes a good one). Can they catch it? How high can they flip it into the air? 