**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 4th – 8th February 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been: **decay, calcium, protection, plaque\***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

This week Louise has introduced her next ‘Healthy Under 5’s’ topic – healthy teeth. We have spent time talking about which foods our teeth like/dislike, finding out how to brush our teeth correctly using a giant size set of teeth, singing cleaning teeth songs and visiting the Preschool dental surgery. It has been interesting to hear how many children view visiting the dentist as a scary prospect, and one reason why we included a Dentists role play has been to hopefully reduce the anxiety some children have about it. We have focused on ‘being brave’ and encouraging those children who are anxious about it to take tiny steps in what they were willing to pretend until they were more than happy to be a patient. The ‘dentists’ have been filling in special forms which show which teeth are healthy, and which need a special clean. We will continue with this role play next week as the children have enjoyed it so much and appear to be benefitting from this specific play.

On Wednesday we set up an experiment to find out what would happen if we left an egg in a glass of coca cola. The next day the children observed how the egg’s shell was covered in a film of brown. We talked ‘plaque’ and then cleaned the egg to remove the layer of ‘plaque’

Chinese New Year began this week so we found out about this festival through watching Cbeebies ‘Let’s Celebrate’ and reading stories about it. The children were very keen to make our own Chinese Dragon and ,after we finished it on Thursday, we used it to perform a Dragon dance, just like we’d seen in the Chinese New Year parade we had watched.

We had more pipette fun in the water tray and an amazing sand machine in the Rock Pool area. Both set of resources have been great at encouraging mathematical skills of measuring and positional vocabulary.

Our ‘Baking Buddies’ this week whipped up a batch of carrot and courgette muffins for the rest of Friday’s preschool crew. A very healthy snack – no sugar included at all! Please ask Louise for the recipe if you are interested.

**Out & About sessions:** Only one Out and About this week due to the terrible weather we have had (as much as we advocate getting out no matter what the weather – the children just don’t enjoy it when it’s wet, windy and cold!). However, on Wednesday we went bridge building in the woods near Gwel an Mor and constructed a great bridge, working as a team to complete it.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish have been introduced to the concept of ‘robot talking’ this week. This is where we say each single sound of a short ‘consonant – vowel – consonant’ (cvc) word, e.g: m-u-d , c-a-t, h-e-n, f-o-x, d-i-g and the children have to ‘blend’ the sounds to together in order to hear what the word is. This is such an important skill when learning to read and spell. Developing the listening skills needed to be able to do it will greatly help your child when they come to reading and spelling words later on in primary school.

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

* *Playing ‘Dentists’ at home is a great way to reduce anxieties your child may have about having their teeth examined – especially if they can be the dentist first and examine your teeth! We would suggest that the word ‘fillings’ isn’t used in order to reduce fears and you just focus on the dentist seeing how clean their teeth are and if they look nice and healthy. You can buy little dentist mirrors (which the children have loved using) in most chemists, so if your child is particularly worried about dentists then it might be a good idea to buy one to use in your play around this subject.*