**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 5th – 13th September 2019**

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

Hello!A warm ‘Welcome’ to our new recruits and a ‘Welcome back!’ to the regular crew! It’s been lovely to meet new little ones and their families and also catch up on summer holidays news with our old regulars. The children have been very chatty about what they have been up to but if you have any photos of holiday activities/events please do send /email them in as a photo always inspires great conversations.

The children have returned to preschool full of confidence and independence, and ready, as ever, to explore and learn through the different play opportunities available to them.

The first couple of weeks back are always extremely interesting – as the old Flying fish have moved on to big school it always opens up a new mix of friendships and interactions which hadn’t necessarily been seen before. This has really been the case this year, and it’s been great to observe how the new Flying Fish and older starfish are beginning to gel as they find their feet being the ‘older ones’ this time.

Our vegetable bed has generated much interest and a wealth of surprises with lots of tomatoes and carrots. The children have been really absorbed in looking for slugs as they observed that some of our tomatoes have been eaten by them. The children discussed where the best place would be to move the slugs to so that they would be safe but not eat any more of our veg!

**Out & About sessions:**  On the first Thursday back we had a trip to the playpark to use the equipment and develop our confidence when using our physical skills. We will be introducing the children to further Out & About sessions once we have settled the new children in.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

This week we have been focusing on encouraging the children to listen in to sounds in the environment and say what they think is making that noise. This is a really important first skill for children to develop as it begins the process of fine tuning their listening skills, an essential requirement of early phonic development.

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

* Draw their attention to sounds in the environment (e.g. the kettle boiling, the wind blowing, the microwave beeping etc) and ask them what they think it is.
* It is very common for children not to be very keen to talk about what they did during their time at pre-school (out of sight out of mind!) but try asking them “What was the best thing you did today?”. It might be more likely to elicit a response!
* If anyone has any pots of herbs/herb cuttings the children could use in the sand kitchen we would greatly appreciate them! We are also in need of baking trays (e.g bun tins) and saucepans etc for our sand kitchen outside so if you have any old ones you no longer require we would love to give them a new home!