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

**Firework display, spectacular, whizz, explode**

Wonder words to use with your child:

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

 This week we have embraced Firework and Bonfire Night. The children have enjoyed creating firework pictures through exploring the effects of different printing tools and adding ‘sound’ words to their creations. Their number skills have also been practiced with lots of singing of the ‘5 Little Fireworks’ song, also great for developing the skill of counting backwards (tricky but very useful!). There has been LOTS of talk about the fireworks they have seen, with great vocabulary building to describe the sounds.

The two rice trays have been the centre of lots of activity this week. We always have a ‘sensory’ experience for the children to engage in as this is a resource which young children gain so much from and holds their attention for long periods of time which enables deeper levels of learning. This week we included some cereal dispensers in the rice tray which the children have LOVED exploring and working out how to use. It has been lovely to watch children workout how the dispensers release the rice and then explain to others how to it work.

The children have also spent lots of time helping with the gardening this week; filling our planters with compost, preparing last year’s daffodil bulbs for planting by cutting off their dead leaves, sorting bulbs and then the long task of planting them all – there were 100!! We are all looking forward to seeing the benefits of our hard work in the springtime.

**Out & About sessions:**  This week we have been able to visit the outdoor classroom area at Portreath Primary School. This has been great for introducing the children to a primary school environment, plus providing them with a wonderful opportunity to use their imaginative, problem solving and collaborative skills whilst also developing their physical skills. Whilst walking up to school we have been busy spotting and counting the poppies which are around the village. The reason for the poppies was also talked about and many of the children are beginning to understand the significance of them. It is a tricky concept to explain to a little person, but we have said that we wear them to remember the brave men and women who helped keep our country safe, both a long time ago and now. On Friday we searched for the poppies around the village and finished off with a play in the playpark.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

This week the Flying Fish began focusing on tuning their listening skills to hear alliteration and identify words which begin with the same sound. We have introduced to them to the Sound Box (full of objects which have begun with the sound p) and playing ‘Bertha Bus’, a bus which visits the zoo to pick up animals which all begin with the same sound. Recognising when words begin with the same sound is another crucial foundation block in building their phonic knowledge. As with all these skills it can take a while to develop so practising it little and often is the best way to support it.

The Starfish have been focusing on shape recognition, linked to fireworks, finding the correct shapes to build a rocket and developing their awareness of shape names. They have also been practising their counting skills by singing the 5 Little Fireworks song and ‘Zoom, zoom, zoom – we’re flying to the moon’!

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

\* *Practice our 5 Little Fireworks song with your child – encourage them to put their fingers up to show the amount of fireworks left, and bend down and shoot up like a rocket after they have counted backwards.*