Play & Learning Newsletter

29th Jan – 2nd February 2024

**Dinosaur, long, fierce, skeleton, spikey,**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Dinosaurs were very much enjoyed last week so we decided to carry it on again this week. We used the story Ten Terrible Dinosaurs alongside 10 frames and props to explore and develop understanding of numbers to 10. We also used the story How to grow a dinosaur which is fantastic for developing their imaginations and predicting what might happen next in the story. It was very much enjoyed by the staff and children. We then had a mark making focus where they had to draw what their seeds would grow into, encouraging mark making with intention and pen grip.

We added pinecones, plants, sticks , dinosaurs, small people and dinosaur eggs to the builders tray this week to encourage re-telling and acting out the stories in their play and adapting them using their own imaginations.

We had a focus on our golden rules song and talked about why we have our 5 golden rules and what may happen if we do or do not follow them. They are we listen and we tidy, we always walk inside and we care and we share.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been practising initial sound identification of the letter ‘a’ whilst playing cross the river, feeding metal mike and using the sound box. We always review all the sounds we have learnt so far each week before we start the new sound. We also had a mark making focus where we practiced the up and down movement used to form many letters. Tracing down and back up the same line. We started by doing it very large in the air, getting smaller and smaller and then finally tried it on white boards. (It’s harder than it sounds for little hands to trace back up a line they have drawn without taking their pen off the paper) This is something we will practice on large sheets of paper or using large movements many times.*

*The Starfish have really enjoyed moving their bodies to the rhythm (a great activity for developing listening skills) whilst moving to some different Dinosaur Stomp songs. Even the most reluctant dancer has been grooving!*

 **Out & About sessions:** We managed a few Out & About sessions this week. On Monday we enjoyed a visit to Harbour House. We went to the little beach where the children went on a fossil hunt and used brushes to see them better. On Thursday the children enjoyed lots of physical exercise whilst playing at Greenfield garden and we had a mark making focus drawing around dinosaurs and making big movement with chalks.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: We have been learning a dinosaur counting song at pre-school which we would appreciate you practising with your child at home. It is to the tune of ’10 Green Bottles’, and goes like this . . . *5 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze, 5 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze, and when 1 big dinosaur hides behind the trees . . . there’ll be 4 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze.**4 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze, and when 1 big dinosaur hides behind the trees . . . there’ll be 3 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze (and so on until there are no big dinosaurs left!)*We have been encouraging the children to use their fingers to represent the dinosaurs and pretending to hide one finger behind their hands when we sing the part about 1 hiding behind a tree. If your child has some toy dinosaurs at home then they would probably love to use them as they sing the song and hide one away each time. This will help support an early understanding of subtraction and ‘1 less’ than a number |