Play & Learning Newsletter

30th November – 4th December 2020

Pine tree, baubles, tinsel, pine needles, spiky

Wonder words to use with your child:

Christmas arrived at pre-school this week! We have focused on the hot topic of Christmas trees as we knew that many of the children had got theirs up at home already and so had lots to say on the subject 😊. We have used the book ‘Pick a Pine Tree’ by Patricia Toht; a lovely book which goes through the process of how a pine tree turns into a Christmas tree. It has prompted lots of talk and conversations between the children about their own trees, where they got them from, if they are artificial or real and all the wonderful things they have decorated them with – great for providing opportunities for the children to think about similarities and differences between themselves and their friends.

The story inspired some wonderful small world play and many of the children used wooden blocks, mug and threading trees, wooden trucks and little people to re-enact their own experiences of tree buying/decorating and also that of the events of the book. Laces were used as tinsel and some imaginative use of other resources to make baubles. Wonderful play to watch!

There was lots of excitement on Monday afternoon when we got out the pre-school tree and everyone enjoyed helping to decorate it – a real team effort! There have also been other Christmas trees to decorate – card ones, chalked ones in the playground and playdough ones. We have used the ‘baubles’ theme as an opportunity to develop the children’s awareness of shapes and the language involved with them – corners, sides, curved, straight and their names. Also perfect counting practice!

Finally Elvis the elf has returned to the pre-school. A story elf rather than a cheeky one – every morning he brings a new Christmas story book for us to share. We have already got some firm favourites!

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



Our last week on rhyming for a little while – with different games to play which utilised the children’s rhyming skills. They are all at different levels of awareness of what ‘rhyming’ means and in their abilities to spot it. Continuing to draw their attention to it at home will help to support their development with this skill.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Go on a shape hunt! Help to develop your child’s awareness of shapes by encouraging them to notice them whilst you are ‘Out & About’ or around the house. If you child is beginning to remember the names of the shapes, let them choose which shape you both have to hunt for. If they are still a little unsure of their names, show them what, for e.g. a circle is, and then point out one and see if they can find any others. For older Flying Fish children who are confident shape namers, do an ‘I Spy’ game, e.g. ‘I spy with my little eye a shape that has one curved side’ or ‘a shape with 2 long sides and 2 short sides’.