Play & Learning Newsletter

1st – 5th March 2021

Dragon, castle, turret, terrified, fierce, mighty, reward, moat and drawbridge, turret

Wonder words to use with your child:

What a lovely book week we have had! This year we focused on Dragon stories, continuing with our focus on these wonderful creatures and the adventures they get up to. We introduced the children to two stories which were new to them – the next adventure of George the little mouse from ‘George and the Dragon’ in the book ‘George, the dragon and the princess’ and an old classic called ‘The Paperbag Princess’ – a great story with a brave and determined princess. The children have been thinking about which story they like the best and on Friday they carried out ‘surveys’ asking each other which book they liked the best and then recording it on a tally chart. It was a very close tie between ‘The Paper Bag Princess’ and ‘George and the Dragon’. A great way of encouraging mathematical skills whilst also prompting some super listening and conversing skills between the children.

Our two Snuggledown sessions were a delight to hold and the children were as full of excitement for them as they are when we do our night time Snuggledown sessions with parents. From undressing and dressing into pyjamas, organising where their clothes went to exploring shadows with the projector light and concentrating on the story in the films and comparing them to other stories we knew; the sessions were not only a great developmental opportunity but more importantly a most enjoyable experience! Please see ‘Ideas for Home’ to find out about the films shown.

Our roleplay castle had a tower and turret added to it this week, created by the feel good effort of team work with the children working together to paint boxes so that we could build one. The children have loved climbing up the tower (with the addition of a set of wooden steps) to peek out of the window and spot any sneaky dragons.

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

This week we have used our sounds sessions for the children to spend time deciding on which was their favourite pre-school book. They all have certain ones which they are keen for adults to read to them and it’s been great to hear about why they like certain ones in particular and which their favourite pages are.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Lots of parents have asked us which films their child watched during Snuggledown as they have gone home and talked about them so it might be nice to have these up your sleeves if you need a quiet half an hour!

On Monday we watched ‘Mimi and the Mountain Dragaon’ a short film that you can purchase from Amazon Prime for about £2.50. It is such a lovely film – and a great one for creating a calm feeling.

On Thursday we watched ‘Zog and the Flying Doctors’ which you can download for free on iplayer. This was broadcast at Christmas time I think (many children had seen it). We read the Zog story during the morning session so it was good to explain that the film was the next part of the story.

With both the films we talked about what was happening and what the characters were like etc. This really helps with children’s comprehension of what is happening in the story and gives them a better understanding of the storyline.