Play & Learning Newsletter

3rd – 7th May 2022

**Journey, destination, airport, train station, vehicle**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we moved on to thinking about ‘journeys’ and the things we go on or in to get to places. The children have spent lots of time talking about the journeys they have been on, plus used some lovely stories to expand their thinking about these experiences and also introduce some maths through counting of people and also things seen on their journeys. The story ‘Maisy’s Bus’ by Lucy Cousins has been great for using the children’s knowledge of number bonds of 5, plus link numbers to numerals. The children have used props to tell the story and move the bus to the correct numbered bus stop. We have also used ‘The Train Ride’ by June Crebbin and ‘The Journey Home from Grandpa’s’ by Jemima Lumley which have provided great starting points for developing mathematical language and creative ideas.

Trains, buses, aeroplanes, cars and boats have been built by groups of children using the large wooden blocks, and then used as a basis for their imaginative games based on journeys. Hole punches have been used by ticket collectors (a very popular resource!), destinations have been decided on through using the globe and world map and places to visit have been chosen whilst looking at travel brochures. Lots of talk and interest about different parts of the world and how you might get there! We have even danced to some African music after a journey to there on our pre-school aeroplane.

We are always thinking of different ways to inspire the children to make marks and this week we used pasta as a basis for decorating. You would be surprised how keen they have been to do this! It has required lots of concentration and a large degree of control and coordination and has been a great experience to help support these skills.

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

*The Starfish have continued to work on their rhyming skills, playing ‘Silly Soup’ to make rhyming soup. They have also enjoyed singing vehicle songs – expanding their ever-increasing repertoire of nursery songs and rhymes.*

*The Flying Fish have worked on the skill of segmenting (stretching out a word so that they can hear all the individual sounds within it – a must for spelling phonetically). They have also played different games which have helped support initial sound identification.*

 **Out & About sessions:**

Much excitement on Tuesday when we returned to Portreath School’s outdoor classroom – the first time in 2 years!! This is such a great space to use and has lots of wonderful opportunities for exploration and problem solving whilst building things. However, with this being the first time many of the children had properly been in the playground during the ‘big’ children’s playtime sessions – the only thing the Flying Fish wanted to do was people watch! It was so lovely to see them interacting with the older children plus watch in complete fascination as the ‘big kids’ played. So – a rather quiet play session but clearly just what was needed at this moment in time. A great first taster of life at a big school. 😊

We also managed a super morning in the sunshine with all the Thursday Flying Fish children down at the little beach. Our trolley enabled us to bring a range of different resources down with us, plus snack and the children spent lots of time building homes for our new sea life animals.

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  This week we had hole punches in our ticket office for the ticket collectors to use. It has been so interesting to see how fascinated the children have been by these – and the concentration and determination used to make them work and produce holes! If you have one at home we would strongly recommend letting your child use it. It is a great way of helping develop hand and finger muscle strength, plus co-ordination and dexterity when picking the cardboard out of the holes or poking things through the holes. You may find it keeps them busy for ages! Ask them how they make it work and, if they are interested, get them to count how many holes they have made. If you are feeling really brave – let them take the back off the hole punch and use the paper dots in their play too!  |
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