Play & Learning Newsletter

4th – 7th April 2022

**Easter, chick, celebrate, easter bunny, hidden, hunt**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have used the children’s interest in Easter to have a specific focus on developing subitising skills with the children. The children are all at different stages of this important mathematical skill and practice really helps to build up their confidence with it. The Starfish children have been playing lots of different games using easter resources to practice instantly spotting quantities of 1,2, and 3, rather than counting them. The Flying Fish have now built up to using their subitising skills when using ‘5 frames’ and recognising different ways of how ‘5’ can be made up. We have been amazed at how confidently they are doing this now. Having a strong understanding of how 5 can be made will then lead into understanding how 10 can be made (the number bonds of 10) – which is one of the concepts that the children learn in Reception. Great skills to support future learning! We have also had easter egg hunts out in the garden, (developing their understanding of positional language as they explain where they found them hidden), pattern creating to decorate eggs and using the language of more, less, fewer as they use resources to support some easter numbers songs (see below).

On Monday we had a visit from Rosie, Mel’s tortoise. The children were fascinated with watching her eat and listened with great interest to Mel as she explained how she looks after her. We were very surprised to hear that she needs lots of baths! Rachel brought her dog, Koa, for another visit on Thursday as some of the pre-school crew missed out on meeting her last week. They loved playing ball with her in the playground and having a stroke of her soft fur.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have continued to work on their ‘blending’ skills this week with Metal Mike and also a bingo game. The Starfish have been singing Easter songs and listening carefully to the words so that they knew which actions to do.*

 **Out & About sessions:**

On Tuesday the Flying Fish helped release the tadpole into the wild (unfortunately there was only one left!). They had to think about where might a good place and why it would be, and after much discussion it was decided that the ditch that we had seen the frogspawn in (in Illogan Woods) would be a good place ‘so that the tadpole has got some friends’. There was lots of excitement when it swam off and joined the mass of them in the ditch. We also spent time searching for sticks and putting them in height order.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Have lovely easter hols with your children! They may enjoy sharing these songs with you!*The Easter bunny is running, running, running,* *The Easter bunny is running,* *He’s looking for easter eggs.**Now his whiskers are twitching, twitching, twitching (as for first verse)**Now his nose if sniffing, sniffing, sniffing (as for first verse)**Now his ears are listening (as for first verse)**Now his eyes are looking (as for first verse)**The easter bunny is running, running, running,* *The Easter Bunny is running,* *He’s found his Easter eggs – YES!***5 Little Chicks (To the tune of 5 currant buns in the bakers shop)**5 little chicks in an easter nest, soft and fluffy and having a rest. One woke up and went CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP. Now there are 4 having a rest. (And continue with 3, 2, 1 and 0).  |
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