Play & Learning Newsletter

8th – 12th February 2021

Frogspawn, tadpoles, froglet, transform, amphibian, Chinese New year

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we used the children’s interest in the tadpoles and frogs to find out about different frogs from around the world – there are some very interesting ones out there! The children have been able to use the globe to find out where all sorts of strangely named and peculiar looking frogs live. They have loved searching for different countries and lots are beginning to remember where our country is on the globe and how you might need to travel to visit a frog that lives in another country.

We all agreed that the frog our tadpoles will transform into wasn’t the most exciting of the array we found out about! The children had fun creating their own frog, choosing which colour it would be, what it would be called and then which country they wanted it to live in. They came up with some super ideas and it was a lovely activity for mixing a healthy dose of imagination with knowledge from their exploration of the globe.

Friday was the beginning of the festival Chinese New Year which runs until the 15th Feb. This is always a lovely festival to share and celebrate with the children as it has so many fun elements involved – dragons, chopsticks and fireworks! The children began the morning finding out about Chinese New Year by watching the Cbeebies programme ‘Let’s Celebrate’ and seeing what a real family does when it is Chinese New Year. We then made money envelopes (with pretend money in – sorry!), had a go at writing in Chinese writing and eating noodles at snack time with chopsticks (lots of giggles and concentration!!). We all performed a Chinese Dragon dance to a song that we had learnt with instruments and lots of feet stamping. It was great fun! A lovely way to end a rather strange half term!

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

 This week Metal Mike has been helping the children to develop their skills of blending sounds to hear a word. This is such an important skill and one that helps create children who pick up the skill of reading a little easier. You can support their skills in it by saying a word to them in a robot voice and seeing if they can work out what you have said, .e.g Can you get your **s-o-ck.** This is where it is so important to say the ‘sounds’ of the letters not the names (e.g. mmm for M). We strongly urge all parents to be using the sounds of letters not the names of them when they are talking to their children about letters as it will help hugely with their reading and spelling when they get to school.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Have a fun and ‘go with the flow’ half term!

I’m sure that we can all agree that this Lockdown has been a much harder going one than the previous ones that we have had to endure. The weather, sense of monotony and feeling of despair over the decisions made by the powers that be have not been conducive to feelings of joy!

Your children, however, have been little stars throughout all of this and carried on with this strange way of life, accepting whatever is thrown in their path. We know (from our own families and lives) that us adults have experienced many different emotions through this time, not helped at all by the pressures and stresses of home schooling and working as well. You have all got through a very tricky 6 weeks though so please make sure that if you can, you relax, chill and just ‘go with the flow’ during this half term week as your little people will feel the benefit of it. Easier said than done we know but more important than ever at this time!

Have a lovely week off and we will see (most of) you from Monday 22nd Feb (we don’t have a training day, just the school).