Play & Learning Newsletter

8th – 12th March 2021

Dragon, fierce, mighty, fragile, kind, friendly, shell, mystery

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week began with a very exciting discovery of 10 strange looking eggs in the playroom. The children decided that they must have been laid by a dragon and then when we spotted a stone dragon outside in the playground, they felt sure that they belonged to her. A letter from the dragon on Tuesday explained that she needed our help to look after the eggs as she didn’t have a nest. The week has been full of excitement and concern about the eggs with nests being created and decisions made about how to best look after them. On Thursday we decide that maybe we needed to build a nest big enough to fit all of the eggs inside it and that the dragon could fit in so we worked as a team to build a snug one in the preschool. So much excitement on Friday when we found our Mummy dragon sitting on top of the eggs and a card saying thank you from her! It has been lovely to observe the care and consideration the children have demonstrated when lifting and touching the eggs, and in thinking about what the baby dragons might need. They also worked really well when having to move the eggs with a partner – not one argument was had and there was an unspoken agreement to move slowly and gently with the egg being supported by the two of them. So lovely to observe and super development of tolerance and cooperation.

The dragon eggs have fuelled the play and learning for the whole week – with playdough, straws and feather being used to create nests for baby dragons, junk modelling creations of nests to hold some of the eggs that we found, egg hunting around the playground and play room and some lovely opportunities for practising mark making skills and hand strength when creating eggs that they would like to find on a dragon adventure.

The eggs have also inspired some great mathematical games with the addition of tiny dragons (a great resource bought with some fundraising money) and plastic eggs. Snuggledown fundraising money has also enabled to buy a super information books about castles and a fantastic ‘You Choose – Fairy Tales’ book which they children have LOVED sharing with friends.

We also had lots of fun working as a team to create decorative paper that we have used to make all the mummies out there a special surprise for Sunday.

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

This week the Flying Fish have been listening out for the letter sound ‘i’ and practising writing it. The children are very interested in the letters in their names and we encourage them to see if they have the ‘sound of the week’ in their own names or in their friends. This is a great way for encouraging them to become more observant of letters in their environments.

The Starfish have been playing different games which encourage them to wait, take turns and listen to their friends. These are all essential skills in being able to hold a conversation!

Ideas to support your child at home:

We often use the phrase ‘team work’ at pre-school and frequently give the children opportunities for engaging in this with their peers and for recognising the ‘feel good factor’ of taking part in and achieving something in this way.

This is also something you can do at home. Make sure the job/task that you choose to do as a team isn’t too long or challenging for them (or they will lose the will!) but enough to make them feel good that together you completed it. The important part is to keep reminding them during the task that you are all working as a team and making a big deal out of completing the task as team when you finsih. You’ll find that they will very keen to take part in such an activity again if they recognsie how good it makes them feel!