Play & Learning Newsletter

8th – 12th November 2021

**Fireworks, noisy, bang, dark, torch, Diwali, festival, celebrate, darkness**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week was the perfect example of how we interweave the children’s own experiences within the learning and play that occurs within the pre-school, plus introduce new experiences to them which help to widen their view and understanding of the world, plus learn new concepts.

After the weekend we knew there would be lots of talk about fireworks and we also had observed how many children were noticing the poppies that staff have been wearing plus the addition of them around the village. The Hindu festival of Diwali was also celebrated at the end of the previous week. This is a festival which young children can easily grasp the meaning of, and it holds lots of similarities with the way Christmas is celebrated so is great for encouraging comparisons and the developing understanding of our similarities with others within a wider world.

The children have listened/watched the Diwali story as a shadow puppet show – which completely transfixed them! This then led to lots and lots of exploration with shadows, both on the shadow board and with an old style OHP which has provided endless hours of investigation and exploring with colour, shadow and shape. The scientific concepts which have been experimented with have been wonderful to watch, plus the deep thinking going on to explain what they were doing or what they could see happening.

The Creating Area enabled the children to mark make in so many different ways this week – a black wall to practise vertical mark making (with balancing skills thrown in whilst they stood on stools and steps to reach up high), plungers to build shoulder and arm strength (essential for later pen holding skills), floor drawing to enable large scale movements and carboard tube firework painting to develop finer motor skills. A full body work out!

A lovely new rocker, which has been kindly bought for us by one of our parents, has provided lovely opportunities for interactions between the children, encouraging face to face talking and working together to make it move. A super new addition to our resources.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** Rhyming has continued to be a focus for the Flying Fish with a game called ‘Cross the River’ which involves not getting your feet bitten by fishes as you cross the river – but only if you have the rhyming object! We have also been focusing on the children recognising their names and the initial letter that it starts with.

The Starfish have been using the shadow board to tell the story of Diwali with an adult and puppets, focusing on developing their language skills. They have also enjoyed singing the 5 Little Fireworks song (see below) whilst making shadows of the movements.

 **Out & About sessions:** This week we went on Poppy hunts around the village – and talking all about why there are poppies everywhere and what they are there for. We also spent time in the church gardens looking at the poppy wreaths – the children were very interested in what people had written on the wreaths which then led to looking at the writing on memorial stones and thinking about how important it is to be careful and respectful of these stones in the garden. Big concepts for little ones but they all responded really well and knew that they must not climb or walk on these.

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| This week we have been singing 5 Little Fireworks which the children have loved. They would love to share it with you at home too! It’s sung to the tune of ‘10 Green bottles hanging on the wall’. We encourage the children to show how many fireworks are left with their fingers. 5 little fireworks standing in a row, 5 little fireworks sitting in a row, And when one little firework decides it’s time to go *(crouch down and put your hands together so you can make a rocket shape)***5,4,3,2,1 . . . . BLAST OFF!!** There’ll be 4 little fireworks standing in a row etc.  |