Play & Learning Newsletter

9th – 13th May 2022

**Sunflower, seed, expert, soil, plants, same, different, types**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Our week started with an investigation into what had been left on a tray at pre-school – were they animal teeth? Were they insects? Were they little stones? After much discussion and looking through magnifying glasses we decided they were seeds! Sunflower seeds to be precise! We set ourselves the challenge of becoming ‘sunflower experts’ and came up with lots of different things that we would like to know about sunflowers. We have already found out that there are many different types of sunflowers – and not all of them are yellow! We have also found out that the different types of sunflower’s seeds are slightly different and where the sunflower stores the seeds once it dies, picking out ones from the sunflowers that we grew last year.

By the end of the week every child had chosen which type of sunflower they wanted to plant and carefully potted 2 seeds in their pots which we will be watching carefully at preschool for signs of growth. We have had to find out the seeds will need to grow and what we can do to help them grow. We are hoping that we can start comparing them with our friends over the next few weeks so we will keep you updated on their progress.

The children are often giving us ideas of the types of things they would like to play with each week and last week the idea of a ’party room’ was raised by some of them. They had very strong ideas on the types of things that should go in it – we couldn’t not create it for them! As predicted it has been very popular and inspired lots of mark making with invitation and card writing, plus organising of numbers of plates, cups and presents for party guests.

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

*This week the Starfish children have been developing their awareness of the different parts of a word by clapping out the syllables of then names of things that they find in boxes. They are doing really well with this skill, demonstrating the development of ‘fine tuning’ of their listening skills – essential for later success with phonics.*

*The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘o’ through the sound box, they have also learnt that when you write lots of o’s together it can make you say ‘ooooo’. We had lots of fun with hidden messages to find on Thursday afternoon that inspired lots of mark making and oral phonic skills!*

 **Out & About sessions:**

A very varied week of Out & Abouts. On Monday we were at the Outdoor classroom at Portreath School, Tuesday saw us bluebell spotting in Feadon Woods and Thursday found us creating obstacle courses and timing ourselves completing them at the football pitch at the park. A perfect example of all the very different opportunities and experiences our lovely local environment offers us!

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Could your child do some planting at home? Children love to plant things and it’s a great opportunity for developing their concept of patience, observing small changes and looking after something. A really simple way to grow something is to cut off the top of a carrot and place it in a saucer of water on the windowsill. Encourage your child to notice what happens to the top of the carrot. Children love to plant seeds – even more if it has come out of something that they have eaten. Maybe try planting an apple seed, avocado stone or melon seed – encourage your child to predict what will happen and what will grow! |
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