Play & Learning Newsletter

14-18th July 2025

Disguise, stealthy as shadows, rigging, hook, treasure map, heavy, light

Wonder words to use with your child:

Pirate fun has continued this week with some ‘rough, tough’ girl pirates who don’t care if you are a boy or a girl if you want to join their pirate crew 😉. The story ‘The Night Pirates’ by Peter Harris and Deborah Allwright, has introduced the children to these wonderful characters who come up with an ingenious way to disguise their pirate ship. The word ‘disguise’ has been used all week long and the children have been intrigued by the idea of something being disguised. Pirate ships have been disguised outside in the garden.

The Starfish children have used the book ‘Portside Pirates’, which has lent itself to some lovely play in the Pirate gally kitchen.

We have had a pirate tea party in the water tray with lots of herbs/flowers to use as additions to their teapots floating and sinking fun in the various water containers both inside and outside. The sand tray with lots of hidden treasure to find, pot of various sizes and scoops and spoons have been very much enjoyed all week to.

There has been lots of pirate role play with real treasure and pirate accessories and pirate ship building with the large wooden blocks. The children have really got into character and come up with some great pirate names!

The children have been creating pirate flags in the creative area, cutting sticking and gluing and learning how to join different materials together – a very tricky skill to master.

**Out & About sessions:** On Monday we planned our teddy bears picnic at Harbour house. They made watercolour decorations with the residents and made invitations for people to attend. We had a lovely wet splashy out and about where we searched for the biggest splashiest puddles to jump in. It enabled us to use some lovely descriptive maths words such as narrow, tiny, large, huge, shallow, deep etc as we explored various puddles. They discovered small puddles made small splashes while deeper, larger puddles made much larger ones.

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

This week both groups have been playing some of their favourite listening games to consolidate the amazing skills that they have developed this year. The ‘fine tuning’ of their ears has worked really well! Many of the children are using their phonics knowledge to read CVC words independently such as cat, mat etc by sounding them out!!! We have also been singing a variety of pirate songs that involve counting and rhyming skills.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Make a treasure map! All children seem to love treasure maps – both making them and using them to find an ‘x marks the spot’. They are a great way of developing children’s positional language skills plus providing an opportunity for some mark making with a purpose. You can create a simple one for your child to follow which takes them to different places in the house, or the garden. Just make sure you have something worthwhile to find 😊!

Can you think of ways of cheering up the grumpy pirate?! Sing this song at home with your child and see if they can come up with any ideas! Sung to the tune of ‘What shall we do with the drunken pirate?’

What shall we do with the grumpy pirate

What shall we do with the grumpy pirate

What shall we do with the grumpy pirate

Early in the morning?

Dance a little jig and make him smile

Dance a little jig and make him smile

Dance a little jig and make him smile

Early in the morning.

Hey ho and up she rises

Hey ho and up she rises

Hey ho and up she rises

Early in the morning.

Ideas for what to do!:

Dance a little jig and make him smile

Make him walk the plank until he wobbles

Tickle him (everywhere) till he starts to giggle