Play & Learning Newsletter

11-15th July 2022

**Treasure map, ahoy, treasure chest, flag, compass rigging hook, helm**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Arrrr! Heave Ho! Watch out for the Portreath Pirates – there are lots of them about! The first week of our pirate inspired play and learning opportunities which we will be running now until the end of term. This week the Flying Fish used the book ’10 Little Pirates’ in our group times sessions – a great book for talking about one less and supporting children’s understanding of numbers to 10. We spent lots of time discussing the various ways the little pirates disappeared and the children then created their own little pirate books, using their own very imaginative ideas for what might happen to their little pirates, and recording how the quantity decreased. The Starfish used the lift the flap book ‘We’re going on a Treasure Hunt’ where they had to spot the 10 golden coins and where they were hiding – another great book for developing counting skills, plus the added bonus of using self-control to wait for their turn to lift the flap!

We have also had ‘piratey’ fun in the water tray with small world pirate play and treasure chests, digging for treasure in the sand pit, eye patch and skull and cross bones creations at the Creating Table, and gold coin hiding and finding by using tweezers in the playdough. 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!

Outside has been very water play based. Many of the children are fascinated with creating bubbles at the moment and have been exploring various different ways of different this with their hands and different sized wands. We have also had fun practising pirate movements involving bilateral actions which has been great for the children’s coordination and walking the plank which has supported their balancing skills.

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



The Starfish have been sharing lots of pirate themed stories, focusing on understanding of what has been read and what might happen next. They have also been developing their vocabulary bank by exploring treasure chests and their contents.

The Flying fish have played pirate phonic games where they have had to use their skills of identifying initial letter sounds to help sort pirates treasure chest and spot particular pieces of treasure. They have also been introduced to the letter sounds l and e.

 **Out & About sessions:**

Two super ‘piratey’ themed Out & About sessions this week with the children collecting 10 pieces of natural treasure that they then dug holes for to bury, with ‘x marks the spot’ to show where to did it up again. Lo and behold, whilst we were busy burying our own treasure, the Portreath Pirates only went and hid some of their own – which we then found!! There were strict instructions from them to ‘share fairly’ which the Flying Fish were very good at doing, demonstrating their great maths skills in the process. On Thursday we took our homemade telescopes with us to the viewing area in Feadon Woods to see if we could see any signs of pirates out to sea. Strangely enough whilst we were busy looking another hoard of treasure was hidden! So much excitement when it was found and lots of super counting skills practiced.

Friday saw us take a trip to the Coastguard Hut for a very informative talk with Mark and XX to find out about this emergency service. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  During our Out & Abouts this week the Flying Fish demonstrated just ow environmentally conscious they were with their very high levels of awareness of litter. With their help we collected 2 bags of rubbish and their comments whilst we collected it made our hearts sing – they are definitely budding environmentalists! Just what we want our preschool crew to grow into.  So with this is in mind, as you enjoy Out & About time with your little ones over the weekend, draw their attention to litter and how it is the wrong thing to do, collect up some bits with their help (we had a system where they ran around spotting bits and then stood by it with their hand up so an adult could go over and pick it up with a nappy sack). Praise them for their great spotting and looking after the environment. It’s never too soon to support their awareness of the need to look after our planet and their local environment – these are the citizens of the future after all. |
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