Play & Learning Newsletter

12th – 16th July 2021

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 and a large cardboard box has led to lots of ‘disguising’ of children!

Treasure maps have been very popular, and many children have chosen to create their own ones, using teabags and scrunching to make them look realistic. ‘X marks the spot’ has also been a very frequently used phrase, with it providing a super opportunity for inspiring some mark making.

The Starfish children have used the book ‘Portside Pirates’, which has lent itself to some lovely play in the Pirate kitchen with the addition of scales and a balance for weighing the contents of the pirate’s treasure chest. This has been great for talking about heavy/light and comparing the weight of different items.

We have had a pirate tea party in the water tray with lots of beautiful flowers to use as additions to their teapots, plank walking in the rock pool area and floating and sinking fun in the various water containers outside. We have also been keeping a very close eye on the progress of the tomatoes which are beginning to grow – very exciting!

On Friday we discovered that those cheeky Night Pirates were behind the disappearance of our pre-school soft toy animals – and all because they really wanted a pet of their own! To say sorry they arranged for us to have a Pirate Picnic Party and gave us invitations so we could invite our own soft toy animals to come to preschool for it. We can’t wait until next Monday and Wednesday for some more pirate fun!

 **Out & About sessions:** Everyday this week we have found a letter and treasure map from some pirates telling us that they have kidnapped one of our soft animal toys! The map has shown us where the toy animal has been hidden (Feadon Woods) so the children have had to read it and workout where they needed to go in the village to rescue our beloved toys. There has been some superb map reading skills being developed and wonderful use of language as the children worked out where we needed to go on our animal rescue. Many children thought that the pirates had used the castle to disguise the pirate ship (clearly absorbing the content of The Night Pirates book) so we spent lots of time searching for clues around this area. Lots of cheering and cuddles when the animal was found and then off to the Look Out spot to see if we could see any pirate ships sailing out to sea. Some of us though we’d spotted some cheeky pirates surfing their way to their next adventure😊.

***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!

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 😊!