Play & Learning Newsletter

13th – 17th Dec 2021

Nativity, shepherds, wise men, stable, manager

Wonder words to use with your child:

Our last week of the Autumn term – and what a fun and busy week we’ve had! The children have been completely absorbed in all things Christmassy from tending reindeer in Santa’s Workshop and stables to building a new stable for the characters from the nativity story. There has been lots of cooking role play games in the sensory experiences with glittery (the eco friendly type) oat tray and peppermint playdough. Outside has seen some super imaginative play with groups of children and the ‘reindeer’ bikes. The reindeer have been delivering presents, falling ill and requiring looking after by Santa’s little helpers. The labels for them have also encouraged some early reading behaviours and the children have been very interested in their different names.

The highlight of the week was obviously the Christmas Party. It was a ‘fit to burst’ morning with lots to fit in! We began with our song session – look out for the videos on our closed Facebook page – and then played some fun party games outside. Next was a Christmas themed snack that we all had together followed by disco dancing for those who were up for it and Duplo building and free play for those who weren’t so keen. Many little children often aren’t keen on big ‘party type’ occasions – the noise and busyness can be a bit too much for them – and that is completely normal! The joy of having the party at preschool meant that the children could engage in it as much or as little as they felt that they wanted to – a perfect set up to ensure everyone was happy. We then had surprise video message from Santa himself (a huge thank you to George’s parents for helping us achieved this!) which then required a present hunt around the playground. Finally, a Christmas story before home time/lunchtime. What a morning! The staff were exhausted – let alone the children 😊. A thoroughly good time was had by all though and some of the children even asked it we could do it again tomorrow!

The children have also been busy creating their Christmas bag goodies which we hope you all enjoy. Make sure you keep us updated with how the contents of your jars get on. Your children loved creating them for you!

Our week ended with a lovely visit to Harbour House where we sang Christmas Songs to the residents through the windows. A truly wonderful experience – and what Christmas is really about. 😊

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** This week we took a break from ‘letters and sounds’ focus and spent our group times reading Christmas stories, talking about the characters and the reasons for why things happened in the story – developing those early comprehension skills.

 **Out & About sessions:** This week we were able to take many of the children out to walk up and visit the reindeer at Gwel an Mor. The children had a job to do when they got there - telling the reindeer not to forget to pick Elvis up on Christmas Eve! They spent ages watching them and talking about the different parts of their bodies, wondering about why one reindeer only had one antler and which, of the three, was their favourite and why. We also spent time watching the goats too – which were equally as fascinating!

**Ideas to support your child at home:**

* *Enjoy them! Make the most of their excitement and belief in the magic of Christmas – it’s what it’s all about! Before you know it that time will go (we speak from experience ) so make the most of wide eyes and jumping up and down with the joy of it all. And remember – boxes and wrapping paper are just as fascinating as new toys so don’t spend a fortune on them – simple things are the best.*

*Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in January!*

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