Play & Learning Newsletter

14th – 18th May 2021

**Pitch, rucksack, tent pegs, mallet, campfire, sleeping bags, penpals**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Another camping book has provided further inspiration for play and learning experiences this week. The book ‘When we go camping’ by Sally Sutton is a song/story which looks at all the things that happen when you go camping. It’s been great for further deepening the children’s understanding of ‘camping’ and providing great opportunities for talking about and sharing their experiences of camping.

We have had another tent join our pre-school campsite, with a pond for fishing in, buckets for collecting water and a guitar for campfire songs. This has added to the role play that the children have been using the resources for and we have observed some lovely games with groups of children.

This week we also introduced the children to our new community project organised by the Penlee Penpals Project. If you are on facebook do have a look at the photos of the beautiful penpal book that has been created by local artists to transport our letters and treasures from us to Harbour House. The idea of the project is to provide a way of communication between community groups, helping to build relationships and, in this case, provide awareness of others. The children have taken the idea of sending things to the Harbour house residents and run with it! They had so many ideas for what they wanted to say in our letter and what little treasures and photos they wanted to send them. This is such a lovely way to continue to build the relationship that the pre-school have had with Harbour House in these covid times, plus provide the children with a wonderful opportunity of developing consideration for others, the concept of letter writing and listening skills (when we get a return letter!). A super project all round!

 **Out & About sessions:** No Out & Abouts this week due to Getting ready for School transition activities and home visits. Mrs Forsdick has visited the pre-school a couple of times this week which has been nice for the children to experience.

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

The Starfish have continued rhyming fun with a sorting game. They are doing well with this essential skill – practice makes perfect though!

The Flying Fish have been creating rhyming strings and noticing the similarities in how the words are spelt. They have also been playing a matching game where they have to use their developing blending skills to read words created from the letter sounds that we have covered. They have been super proud of ‘reading’ the words. We have also been practicing our letter formation in the air with our letter movement song. Children cannot be expected to write letters if they can’t make the movements required to write them in large ways. Practicing large movements of letter formation in the air is a great way of supporting this.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Send a letter to a family member 😊

See if your child would like to send a letter/picture to a family member. Let them draw or ‘write’ what they want to send, annotating it if your child wants to ‘tell’ the family member various things. Send it off by post and encourage the family member to write back. Children love receiving a letter in the post!

This is a great activity for encouraging children to understand the purpose of writing and often inspires mark making, something that is a crucial step in the learning to write process.