Play & Learning Newsletter

14th – 18th September 2020

This week has been all about ‘Getting to know you’, a specific focus on the children spending time and getting to know their new key person (or ‘special person’ which is the term we have used in pre-school). We have had group times together where we played games which encourages us to share things about ourselves (favourite colours, animals, foods etc), shared favourite songs and stories and had a look through our learning journey books. Most of all though the staff have ensured that they have spent time playing and chatting with their new ‘key’ little people so that each child feels a sense of connection with that adult.

Our learning journey books will be taking a slightly different format this year as we have reflected on how best to use them in a way that has the biggest impact on the children whilst also trying to reduce the huge workload that they entail on the staff. The children will now have more of a say about what will go into their Learning Journey Books (or Special Books as some of them call them) and their comments and thoughts about what the photos or pictures show will be recorded. The idea is that this will act as a reminder of positive learning/behaviour moments and reinforce positive feelings about their skills and attitudes (e.g. *not giving up when solving a problem, being kind, coming up with good ideas, being resourceful, turn taking, being friendly etc).* We are hoping this will support their levels of wellbeing and self-confidence.

Given the short time that the children have been back at pre-school we have been really pleased to observe the speed in which friendships have been formed and the amount of group games occurring. This isn’t usually seen so soon in the pre-school year and it has been so lovely to watch and be part of – there have been many heart melting moments!

Ideas to support your child at home:

Once your child’s ‘Getting to know your keyperson’ sheet gets sent home, drop the name of them into conversation and if your child does anything at the weekend encourage them to tell their keyperson what they did. Some children will be very aware of who their ‘special person’ is and others may have complete forgotten or just not be bothered at all about it. All completely normal!

If your child does anything that they are very proud of at home, please do email us a photo of them doing it and we can add it to their learning journey books. Ask them if they would like you to send a photo in and emphasis what the photo shows and the new skill/attitude/learning behaviour that they learnt/demonstrated. 😊