Play & Learning Newsletter

17th – 21st May 2021

**fee, fi, fo, fum, giant, growing, planting, seeds, seedling, germinate, sprouting, treasure, split**

Wonder words to use with your child:

On Monday we found a very exciting parcel waiting for us at pre-school – a treasure chest full of golden coins! Inside was a letter which was from Jack, telling us that he needed out help to look after his treasure chest as he was worried that giant might steal it again. He needed us to check that there were 100 coins in it too!

The chest (and its contents) has been the focus for many of our groups time activities with the children practising and developing their counting skills to 10 and beyond, counting out correct amounts and exploring different ways of making 10. We have used ’10 frames’ again to help them see the pattern of ten and to explore the different ways that 10 can be made with golden and bronze coins. The Starfish have learnt a tressure chest song which has supported their growing understanding of number. Lots and lots of mathematical thinking and learning!

Children love the idea of treasure chests and so we used all the egg boxes that you kindly donated so that the children could create their own. There has been lots of sticking, colouring and imagination being used – even keys and keypads being made to ensure the treasure chests stay locked!!

Giant’s shoes, welly boots and clothes have been discovered in the home corner – plus a HUGE mound of playdough! The children have had fun thinking and making giant sized food – plus trying on the giant’s clothes and foot wear. We have decided that the giant is as tall as our pre-school building!

Other highlights this week have included big block construction with sand cement, observing the changes in our sunflower and cress seeds, developing our scissor and fine motor skills with leaf snipping and pom pom threading on dried spaghetti and castle creating with our favourite construction resource – the magnetic tiles!

 **Out & About sessions:** A mixture of sunshine and showers this week as we used chalks to make the amphitheatre in Greenfield Gardens as colourful as we could, practising writing letters from our names and generally encouraging and inspiring mark making to support those little hands and fingers into becoming strong enough for holding pens/pencils correctly.

On the way back to Pre-school we stopped off at the park for a chance to develop climbing and other physical skills, whilst also thinking about how we can keep ourselves safe whilst using the park.

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

This week the Flying Fish have been creating nonsense and real words in a game show where onset/rime cards were used to practice their blending sounds. They also had a treasure chest problem to solve, sorting different items so that the cow, Jack and his Mum had the right bits of treasure in their chests (working on distinguishing initial letter sounds).

The Starfish have been focusing on retelling the story of Jack and the Beanstalk but changing the ending each time.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Treasure boxes – if you have an old box at home (shoe box or anything else which has a ‘lid’) let your child have it and pretend that it is a treasure box, telling them they need to collect treasure inside it. Maybe they could go out into the garden to find treasure? Collect some on a walk/at the beach? What can they find around the house to put in it? At the end of the day have a look through the contents of their box with your child and ask them how many things they have put in their and which is their favourite item and why.