Play & Learning Newsletter

26th February – 1st March 2024

**You can’t catch me! Sly, cunning, trusted, wise, foolish**

Wonder words to use with your child:

The children loved the Runaway Pancake so much last week that we decided to use the classic story of The Gingerbread Man to further develop their ideas and language around the concept of food running away! All of the children have been developing their story sequencing skills whilst using props and picture cards to retell the story. The older children have been exploring the words ‘sly’ and ‘cunning’ and ‘trusted’ to talk about the characters of the fox and the gingerbread man – complex language for little people but they have grasped the meaning of the words in the context of the story. They have also been creating their own versions of the story – something they are becoming so great at doing! This year’s preschool crew are certainly a very imaginative lot! 😊

The playdough table has seen small medium and large gingerbread people being rolled out and cut and then decorated. Children have been developing their strength and control in the finger joints as they rolled very tiny balls for eyes and noses and smiles, plus carefully pressed them flat for buttons; really great experiences for helping them acquire the physical skills needed for holding a pen. We added the till and a menu with price list to make the home corner into a gingerbread café to sell their lovely creations. They loved taking turns being the customer and shop keeper and using money to pay for their purchases.

Baking buddies was a big success again this week and they made some delicious large and tiny gingerbread people to share with their friends.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘n’ – a long sound that when made correctly makes our noses tingle! We have used the sound box and metal mike to explore items that begin with this sound and have listened for it at the end of words as well – all tricky thinks for little ears to identify but the Flying Fish are working well with this.*



*The Starfish have been developing their understanding of positional language with very active little gingerbread men that have been hiding under, behind, between, on top of and beside things.*

 **Out & About sessions:** We only managed one out and about session this week due to the very unpredictable weather. The children went to the play park and had a lovely time on the play equipment, challenging themselves to climb a little higher, swing a little further and try something new on a piece of equipment.

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  Reading and sharing stories with your child is one of the best ways to extend and develop their vocabulary – something which helps them in so many ways as they progress from pre-school to big school and then through their school journey (even in secondary school!). A wide vocabulary makes a huge difference to their ability to explain their ideas plus will be reflected in their writing at a later stage in school.  Chatting about what is happening in the story that you are reading to them and picking up on any unusual or new words and explaining them is all it needs to help your child become more aware of different words. You will be surprised what their amazing sponge like brains will absorb! |