Play & Learning Newsletter

25th – 29th November 2024

**Brave, worried, owlet, nocturnal, swooped, branch, silent, hunting**

Wonder words to use with your child:

The lovely book ‘Owl Babies’ by Martin Waddell has inspired this week’s play and learning experiences, making the most of the children’s current love of the ‘dark’ and also introducing some beautiful vocabulary and notions of different feelings. The children have enjoyed using 4 soft owl teddies to re-enact the story (there has been lots of owl play and games involving them!) and also create cosy homes to put them in. They have shared ‘owl treats’ (worms and mice) between the owls using their subitising skills (and working out how many cuts to make on a play dough worm to create the correct number of worms – very tricky!) The book has also been great for introducing the word ‘nocturnal’ and finding out about other nocturnal animals using information books.

The children have also been comparing nocturnal with hibernation and how they are different. There has been lots of talk about whether the children would like to hibernate or be nocturnal. The Flying Fish have been voting for which they would prefer, which stimulated some great mathematical talk about quantities and comparing them.

The children have also been enjoying the challenge of creating lairs for their bears which are dark and cosy. This has encouraged them to come up with ideas, problem solve and use previous experiences to support new ones – all very important learning behaviours. We have had lots of bears to choose from and it’s been very interesting to observe the children’s thought processes as they chose which bear to use and then how to build the ‘lair’ to fit them. Just the type of active thinking that we like to see!

The children have loved to continue their interest in colour mixing carrying on from last week . This week we offered them dry cornflour alongside pots of runny paint, pipettes, spoons and pots to make their own gloop while also exploring how colours change and mix – they have been fascinated and spent long periods completely engrossed in this activity.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Flying Fish have been continuing to play games which have focused on them listening out for the initial sound of a word. We have said familiar words but changed the initial letter (so they realise the difference in the sound) and been helping the adults workout what words might say in books by using the picture and the initial letter sound given by the adults. We started with the sound ‘p’ this week.

The Starfish have enjoyed sharing different owl books and developing their vocabulary around owls and nighttime. They have also enjoyed beginning to learn some of our Christmas songs!

 **Out & About sessions:** We have had three lovely out and about this week. We went on a bear hunt with our friends at Harbour House and the children and residents all loved it and joined in together. We have some lovely friendships forming!

We have also been to Ilogan woods twice on a very muddy bear hunt. The children absolutely love the thick oozy mud. We were lucky enough to spot a lovey insect – The children thought was either a centipede or a millipede ( we investigated further when we got back and discovered it was a soil centipede ) We also practiced our jumping and climbing skills in the woods and the children encouraged and supported each other which was really lovely to see. We also enjoyed some listening moments where we relaxed, closed our eyes and listened to the sounds – we all felt relaxed and good after! The children were able to pick out individual sounds such as the stream, birds, leaves rustling.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Go for a night time walk! Going for a walk in the dark is such a different experience and great for encouraging your child to tune into the different sounds and sights that darkness brings. Look for the moon and make shadows. Lots of lovely language to be developed and understanding about the natural world. PLUS (and possibly the most exciting part of it if you are little) - they get to use their torches too!! A win win experience! 😊