Play & Learning Newsletter

21st – 25th June 2021

Destination, ticket collector, all aboard, carriages, passengers.

Wonder words to use with your child:

Our camping fun has moved onto holidays of another kind and this week we have thought about train rides and destinations that a train ride might take us to. We used the story ‘The Train Ride’ by June Crebbin to lead the week, a lovely book with a train like rhythm to the text.

Portreath Train Station has been very busy all week, taking passengers to different destinations with tickets to buy and collect, drivers and guards organising their passengers and timetables to be read. Lots of places to choose from to visit this week too with a Portreath Pizzeria in one corner of the pre-school and an Icecream Parlour in another!

The pizzeria has had pizza playdough (scented with basil and oregano) and a variety of toppings to choose from. The children have been encouraged to create patterns with their toppings, e.g. cheese,tomato, cheese, tomato (an ABABAB pattern) and we have even had some ABCDEABCDE patterns – very complex toppings -and great mathematical skills!

The icecream parlour has been in the sand tray with icecream scoops, cones and bowls. There has been a range of flavours and each scoop has been £1. The most expensive icecream we have had so far was £25 – that’s a lot of scoops 😊. The children have loved selecting flavours and serving customers, and there has been some lovely role play language being used as the children have interacted with each other.

 **Out & About sessions:** This week we were out and about ‘subitising’ on the walk to and in Illogan Woods. ‘Subitising’ is the new hot word in early years maths at the moment due to the fact that it’s importance in helping create successful mathematicians is now fully understood. It’s the skill of being able to just ‘know’ that there are, for example, 3 objects in a bowl, without counting them. We were on the look out for 2, and the children were great at spotting ‘2’ of many things, completely grasping the fact that there is no need to count as you ‘just know’. We have started with a small number to introduce the concept of ‘subitising’ and will work on other numbers as their skills with this increase.

Once in the woods we became leaf detectives and used our leaf ID sheets to match and identify the names of trees according to the shapes of their leaves. Some fantastic observation skills used to do this.

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



The Starfish have been using their rhyming skills in a game of cross the river with rhyming objects.

This week the Flying Fish have practiced syllable clapping according to places on the globe – some of the country’s names have been great for developing awareness of the different parts of a word. We have also played a cross the river game where the children had to use their rhyming skills, linking what they had heard to the pictures they had.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Subitising – this skill can be encouraged really well by playing with dice and dominoes as both of these have arrangements of dots/items which children become familiar with so that they eventually end up ‘just knowing’ the number instead of having to count them. So dig out the dominoes and let them play with these and find a dice and let them use it for rolling and then taking that many , e.g. grapes, or rolling it and then doing e.g. that many jumps etc. the more experience they have of these resources the better their ‘subitising’ skills will be!