Play & Learning Newsletter 

21st – 25th September 2020

First, second, third, once upon a time, happily ever after

Wonder words to use with your child:

There has been a lot of “Chinny chin chins” and “Huffs and Puffs” heard around the pre-school this week as we focused on the story of ‘The 3 Little Pigs and The Big, Bad Wolf’ during group time sessions and in many of our play and learning experiences. The children LOVE this story and all of them have become full engaged in the different ways we have retold it and used the language involved in it. It is a great story for supporting children’s language development and every single child has been utilising their language skills to retell, act out, sing and talk about the story.

This week has also seen us using our scissor skills to snip off seed heads from our wildflower bed, and then popping them to find the seeds inside. The children then helped to clear the bed, pulling out the dead plants and observing the length of roots. Over the next couple of weeks we will be preparing the garden for springtime by planting various bulbs. Does anyone know where we can get hold of some wild garlic bulbs? Also are there any keen gardeners out there who can tell us what we could be planting in the way of veg and plants for the winter time?

Kate Shaw, one of our lovely grandparents, presented us with a wonderful resource at the beginning of term – a 26 piece set of little painted wooden pots and people, all with letters and numbers on them. This week we felt the children were ready to explore them. It has been wonderful to observe the play that they inspired, and we can see that they are going to be joining the ‘favourites’ bank of resources during the year. Thank you Kate!

On Friday the children were over the moon to discover that playdough had returned to pre-school for the day! This simple resource is always one of the most popular play experiences and provides such a wealth of opportunities for physical, creative, mathematical and language skills. We have decided that having it for one day a week, every week (with hand washing before and after use) will ensure that playdough can return to the setting in a relatively low risk way.

Ideas to support your child at home:

 Listening to and retelling traditional stories which have repetitive, predictable language is a fantastic way of supporting your child’s language development. These well known stories can be told without a book, instead using props or actions and are brilliant for encouraging attentive listening skills. ‘Goldilocks and the 3 Bears’, ‘The 3 Little Pigs’, ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ and ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ all have wonderful repeating phrases which children pick up very easily. They are also great for adapting to your child’s interests, e.g. ‘The 3 baby dinsoaurs and the big T Rex’. Try to add some ‘story language’ (e.g. Once upon a time/ happily ever after) and you’ll notice the benefit when they are older and start to write their own stories.😊