Play & Learning Newsletter

25th – 28th April 2022

**Boat, outing, oars, row, baled, crew, dock, moozles**

Wonder words to use with your child:

A lovely start to the summer term as we welcomed the children back from their easter hols. They have been full of talk about what they did and where they went, plus the chocolate they ate 😊. Talking to each other about things like this really helps develop their conversation skills and we have encouraged them to tell friends and their peers about their experiences.

This week we have used ‘boats’ as a stimulus for problem solving and storytelling. The Flying Fish have used the story of ‘Jack and The Flum Flum Tree’ by Julia Donaldson. A great story for encouraging problem solving and talking in depth about the events and feelings within the story. The Starfish have used the story ‘Mr Gumpy’s Outing’ by John Burningham as a basis for storytelling and some mathematical thinking. We have also had the big book of ‘Boats’ by Flora McDonnellm for the children to look at the pictures and talk about what they see. This has been excellent for encouraging talk as the pictures are so busy and full of boats of all different varieties – there has been something for everyone!

The top room has been FULL of cardboard boxes which the children have utilised as boats, decorating them with chalks and pens and using them within their role play games. It’s been lovely to see children who may not always be so keen to make marks happily decorating their boats and, in the process, giving their finger and hand muscles a workout.

There has been LOTS of water play this week (we apologise for the wet clothes!) with lots of exploration of moving boats down ramps and from one tray to another. Balloon pumps have also added an additional interest as the children have explored how to make their boats move without touching them; some great early science concepts being discovered and played with.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *This week we have introduced the letter sound ‘m’ to the Flying Fish, focusing on making this sound correctly, hearing it at the beginning of a word and beginning to recognise the letter shape. We have to make sure we say ‘mmmm’ and not ‘muh’ with this letter and this lets us hear it and blend it easier. The children also enjoyed writing secret codes (m) on small bits of paper, folding them up tightly and hiding them for others to find around the pre-school. When an adult found one the secret code did a magic trick on them and made them say ‘mmmmmm’ whilst rubbing their tummy. You can imagine the keenness to do this – there was a lot of laughter and wide eyes!*



*The Starfish have spent time working on their rhyming skills with different version of ‘Row, row, row your boat’ (where they have had to work cooperatively with a partner as well) and having fun making up nonsense rhymes with their names – something they always love doing.*

 **Out & About sessions:**

On Monday we walked up to Portreath Primary School to meet Mrs Forsdick and Miss Cafee through the fence and have a chat with some of our friends from last year. We also went ‘bee spotting’ at Jubilee Gardens where we discovered a vast number of bees dozing on the grass. The children came up with lots of reasons for why this might be happening and watched in fascination (at a safe distance) as the bees crawled to flowers to find nectar.

On Thursday we took our new and rather snazzy trolley off to the little beach where we had lots of fun exploring a very, very long rope. We made it be lots of different lines, straight, wiggly, curved and also used it as a mountain climbers prop! A very simple resource that has many uses. We also were able to take some of our new bouncy balls along and our new magnifying glasses too which we spent time observing elements of the beach that we tend to take for granted (holes in the wall, limpets, barnacles, coarse sand etc).

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  Next week we are going to be thinking about ‘journeys’. If you could use this word (over the weekend) when you make a journey somewhere it will help your child to begin to understand what the word means and also types of places that they make journeys to. If your child has been on holiday (and remembers it), talk to them about how they got there and who else came on the journey with them. It would also be good if you talk about if it was a long or short journey.  Have a lovely long weekend – and if you are making a journey to somewhere we hope it is a smooth one! 😊 |
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