Play & Learning Newsletter

5th – 9th Feb 2024

**Chinese New Year, chopsticks, celebration, Gung hay fat choy!**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Chinese New Year has been well and truly celebrated this week at pre-school with lots of children demonstrating a very keen interest in how others celebrate this festival of spring and welcoming in good luck. We all began the week with a viewing of Cbeebies ‘Let’s Celebrate Chinese New Year’ .These programmes are a fantastic way of introducing children to the different festivals that are celebrated in this country and around the world, always shared through the experiences of a young child. Throughout the programme we talked about the similarities between how Chinese New Year is celebrated and how Christmas is celebrated. Many of the older children are beginning to understand that celebrations often involve feasts, family and friends coming together, decorating the house, music and visiting places that are special to us. This concept is a really important one as it helps build up their understanding that no matter where we come from or how we live our lives there are always similarities between us and things that we can bond over.

This year is the year of the dragon and, having watched a Chinese New Year parade, we decide to create a dragon head that we could use in our parade. This has led to watching dragon dances and learning how the dancers move and the way the instruments are used and then creating our own versions. The children worked as a team to create the dragons head and on Friday enjoyed working together to create the parade with our dancing dragon. Lots of fun and they children had a little taste of what it would be like to watch a Chinese New Year parade.

Snack time on Thursday was lots of fun with noodle eating with chopsticks – very tricky and required lots of persistence and determination!

Other popular play & learning opportunities this week have included our Chinese Restaurant, making Chinese good luck red envelopes filled with pretend money (something that is given to children at Chinese New Year), making decorations to hang in the restraint and lots of fun with friends in the clay tray immersing themselves in its properties and also the soft play in the rock pool area.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘’s’, ‘p’, ‘t’ and ‘a’ and have been sorting food objects according to their initial sounds all based on the sounds that they have learnt so far. ( we used two letters at a time and they had to decide which letter/pile the food item belonged on.*



*The Starfish have been listening to dragon music and moving freely to it with scarves to move with them, They have also been singing the 5 little dragons song with props and Dragon dragon turn around song.*

 **Out & About sessions:** We managed have managed lots of out and abouts this week. We went to the Astro turf on Tuesday and practiced throwing and catching with a partner, balancing bean bags on various body parts and trying to carefully move around and finished with some ring games. The children were amazing at listening carefully and following instruction. We also went to Illogan woods on Wednesday and Thursday where we did lots of activities to build on our gross motor skills and coordination. We all used sticks to mark make in the gooey mud and followed tracks to look for bears, dragons and foxes!!

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  Your child may be keen to share the cbeebies ‘Let’s celebrate Chinese New Year ‘ with you and talk about what we did at pre-school this week. They all loved using chopsticks for snack and in the role play area. Using them is a fantastic way of developing the muscles and co-ordination in their fingers which will ultimately help them gain better control over pens and other mark making tools. It’s also great for building up persistence and determination - two attitudes which are essential for success in learning.  Also, you could have a go at the 5 crispy pancakes song that has been shared on Facebook or sent home with your child. I’m sure lots of you will enjoy pancakes over half term for pancake day so maybe get your children as involved as possible with the shopping, making and serving of them.  Have a wonderful half term. |