Play & Learning Newsletter

6th – 9th May 2025

**Pomegranate, seeds, sunflower, germinate, petals, stem**

Wonder words to use with your child:

The children have been exploring seeds and planting this week at pre-school, and finding out where seeds are hiding in fruit and vegetables. There was much enthusiasm for this activity, where we had a variety of fruit( pomegranate, kiwi, pepper, apple, tomato, strawberries) for the children to cut open and we talked about what they noticed. The children thoroughly enjoyed the tasting part of this activity the best! Exploring seeds in the foods we eat can prompt children to ask questions about how foods grow, are harvested, stored and how they reach our dinner table.

Everyone has been very excited about planting sunflowers this week. They had to carefully pick 2 seeds to place into their pots which we will be watching carefully at preschool for signs of growth. We have had to find out what the seeds will need to grow and what we can do to help them grow. We are hoping that we can start comparing them with our friends over the next few weeks so we will keep you updated on their progress.

Everyone has really enjoyed exploring vegetable in a sensory planting tray with large, medium and small pots to fill with compost and plant. They have also loved using the trowels and forks to break open the veg and look inside. It proved to be a language rich experience with lots of mathematical talk and lots of discussions about healthy and unhealthy foods. It allowed us to talk about what we are growing in our allotment and what else we could still plant.

Another huge hit has been the runny paint, pipettes, brushes and trays. This week it was all about the process and not the end product. ( although we had some beautiful end results ) Children spent long periods adding colours and watching the paints running into each other. It has kept them fascinated all week sparking exploration of colour and texture. The children have also been loving the sand and water play in the garden each day and use it in so many ways.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘o’ through the sound box, they have also learnt that when you write lots of o’s together it can make you say ‘ooooo’. We had lots of fun with hidden messages to find that inspired lots of mark making and oral phonic skills! We have been playing bingo with some items with initial sounds we have already learnt and using magnetic letters to recognise the letters / sounds in our names .*

*This week the Starfish children have been developing their awareness of the different parts of a word by clapping out the syllables of their names and different flowers .They are doing really well with this skill, demonstrating the development of ‘fine tuning’ of their listening skills – essential for later success with phonics.*



**Out & About sessions:** We have had some lovely visits to Portreath Primary school bark area again this week. The children are fascinated by the older children at playtime and it is a great way for them to become comfortable in this environment. The school children eagerly come over to greet our children during playtime and are all excited to find out who their ‘buddy’ will be.

**Ideas to support your child at home:**

Next time you are buying, eating or cooking with fruits and vegetables you could explore what is inside with your child, talk about if it contains seeds and how it grows. You could encourage your child to try new foods by getting them to use their senses, and gradually working up to tasting it.

Can you do some planting at home? Children love to plant things and it’s a great opportunity for developing their concept of patience, observing small changes and looking after something. A really simple way to grow something is to cut off the top of a carrot and place it in a saucer of water on the windowsill. Encourage your child to notice what happens to the top of the carrot.