**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 1st – 5th October 2018**

*Any donations for our harvest Food bank appeal are greatly appreciated!*

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

Apple week has been a great success – a big thank you for all the kind donations of apples! Sara Clasper came with her apple press on Tuesday morning and we washed, bashed, mashed, twisted and pressed the apples to create the most delicious juice (according to the children!). There was a great feeling of achievement in the air as we sat drinking our juice, plus super language development as the children talked about what we did and how. Sara kindly left the press for us to use ourselves and it was amazing how many children could explain exactly how to use it to make the juice. Most of the children got the chance to make their own apple crumbles during the week. This required listening to instructions, using their fine motor skills to chop apples and make the crumble mixture. They also used the scales to weigh out the ingredients, beginning to understand about measuring.

**Out & About sessions:**

No Out & About sessions this week due to Apple week activities.

**Sounds and Letters focus:**

This week we have played a listening game on the computer which motivated the children to really tune into what they were hearing and distinguish the sound, (youtube – Listening and Attention, Phase 1, Mister teach ). We have been copying instrument sounds in a partner game and clapping out the syllables of words in our ‘What’s in the Bag? Game. This is a great game for encouraging children to articulate the separate parts of a longer word, an essential skill which will help them with spelling when they are at school.

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

* Get cooking! All of your children have expressed an interest in cooking at preschool and were very keen to be involved in the making process. Cooking together provides them with a great opportunity to practice and develop:
* maths skills (counting how many times they stir the mixture, understanding how scales work, counting the number of buns created etc),
* physical skills (chopping, spreading, pouring, stirring, rubbing mixtures together),
* early science skills (observing and understanding that change will occur to the mixture, cause and effect),
* language skills (the language of cooking, hearing recipe instructions, talking about what they can see happening)
* **PLUS** the sense of achievement and satisfaction in eating what they’ve made!