**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 5th – 9th Nov 2018**

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

The main aim of this week has been to provide the children with experiences and learning opportunities which help develop their awareness and understanding of events which others and/or themselves may take part in. Fireworks and Bonfire Night has obviously been one of these events, and the children have enjoyed creating firework pictures through exploring the effects of different printing tools and adding ‘sound’ words to their creations. Their number skills have also been practiced with lots of singing of the ‘5 Little Fireworks’ song, also great for developing the skill of counting backwards (tricky but very useful!). There has been LOTS of talk about the fireworks they have seen, with great vocabulary building to describe the sounds.

The festival of Diwali has fallen during this week. This is known as the festival of light and is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs across the world. An important part of social awareness in children is for them to understand that not all people have the same life experiences as their own. This understanding is the beginning of developing tolerance and respect for others views and experiences and prompting an interest in the world outside their own home. With this in mind we have introduced the children to the story and traditions which are associated with Diwali and have let the Flying Fish children watch the Cbeebies programme ‘Let’s Celebrate Diwali’ which gives a child’s view of how Diwali is celebrated in their own home. The children have created Rangoli patterns, make Diwali sweets and watched a shadow puppet show about the story. We have also talked about the similarities between how Diwali and Christmas are celebrated.

**Out & About sessions:** This week we used the children’s interest in the poppies dotted around the village to challenge them to see how many they could count whilst on a walk. The highest total was 17! The reason for the poppies was also talked about and many of the children are beginning to understand the significance of them. It is a tricky concept to explain to a little person, but we have said that we wear them to remember the brave men and women who helped keep our country safe, both a long time ago and now.

**Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

Our last week of focusing on rhyming for a little while. The children have played bingo games with rhyming pictures and a fun game called ‘Cross the River’, where they can only jump over the river if they have the object which rhymes with the one on the other side. The children’s confidence and progress with rhyming is very noticeable with many of them clearly benefitting from lots of rhyming practice at home as well!

Louise has been playing listening games with animals this week, encouraging the Starfish children to listen to animal descriptions and noises in order to guess which animal she is spying.

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

**\*** *Practice our 5 Little Fireworks song with your child – encourage them to put their fingers up to show the amount of fireworks left, and bend down and shoot up like a rocket after they have counted backwards.*