**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 8th – 12th October 2018**

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**Play and Learning Highlights:**

The sunny weather at the beginning of the week inspired lots of water play outside. It has been very interesting to observe the children’s problem-solving skills as they worked out how to channel water from one place to another and we are beginning to see some great team work with our Flying Fish children in particular – a lovely skill to see developing and which indicates how well the children are building relationships with each other. The children helped clear some of the old plants in the planters – and in the process discovered some potatoes! You can imagine the excitement! The younger starfish particularly enjoyed this experience and it was great for encouraging them to communicate what they were doing and what they could see.

 Autumn leaves have been used and explored with on both the Creating Table and with playdough, with printing continuing to be an interest for many children. We have spent time focusing on the children’s use and understanding of positional language as they play games pretending to be squirrels hunting for acorns outside.

**Out & About sessions:**

Many of the Flying Fish children have enjoyed ‘Out & About’s to Illogan Woods, in the sunshine, to hunt for autumn treasure. We linked our trips to the story ‘We’re Going on a Leaf Hunt’ which we sang as we walked. We hunted for leaves of different colours, explored the movement of helicopter seeds, counted acorns and searched for the ‘hats’ (as the children called them!) to fit on them. The children also spent time challenging themselves to climb and balance along a long tree trunk that we found. It was great to see their self confidence developing as they mastered how to do it!

**Sounds and Letters focus:**

This week the Flying Fish children have spent time making ‘Silly Soup’ – a great game with a song which introduces the children to the concept of rhyming. The children love the song (as it’s very silly!) and have enjoyed rhyming their names with nonsense words.

The starfish children have been playing ‘What’s in the bag?’, where they have to tune into the sounds made by objects they cannot see. This will help them begin to fine tuning their listening skills – an essential building block of early phonic work.

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

* Please practise singing our ‘5 Little Leaves’ song at home with your child (as on letter handed out this week), encouraging them to use their fingers to show how many leaves are left.