**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 10th – 14th June 2019**

* \*Our wonder words this week have been: sailing boat, ferry, liner, dredger, house boat, cargo ship, hull, mast, sail, cabin
* **Play and Learning Highlights:**

Rain, rain, rain and more rain has been a large part of this week although we have tried to embrace it whenever we can and make the most of wellies and red suits and abundant amounts of water! The children love the freedom of accessing it via the water butt tap and have utilised this lots this week. We have created paddling pools, explored how to create big and little splashes in them and which objects create the best splashes, provided baths for the animals and scrubbed their teeth in small world play and engaged in some great problem solving and team work whilst trying to work out how to move a filled water tray from one place to another. Making the most of what nature has given us!

This week we have introduced our new theme of ‘boats’ using two lovely books – ‘I love Boats’ (Flora McDonald) and ‘Mr Gumpys Outing’ (John Burmingham). The books have been great for introducing new vocabulary linked to boats, plus giving the children the opportunity to retell and create their own versions of stories. The water tray has had a car ferry as it’s small world play and the children have enjoyed counting cars on and off the ferry, plus working out simple problems involving how many cars are on/waiting for the ferry and how many in total. The Flying Fish have had fun making up their own versions of ‘Mr Gumpys Outing’ using their own names and choosing different animals and things to ask to come onto their boat. The children never fail to amaze us with their wonderful imaginations and creativity – we have had some fantastic stories!

And finally – the butterflies emerged from their chrysalis this week so we were able to release them into the wild on Friday afternoon – always a magical experience!

**Out & About sessions:** The weather and its habit for being very unpredictable has put rather a dampener on Out & About sessions this week! Fingers crossed for some dry spells next week. We did manage a session at Portreath School in their outdoor area on Friday morning, building boats together which were big enough to hold all of us.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

We have continued to focus on the sounds **b** and **c** this week through playing ‘pairs games’ (where children have to match their object to a friend’s letter card). They have also been practising their blending skills through creating cvc words with ‘rime’ endings of ‘at’. ‘it’ and ‘op’, e.g adding a ‘s’ to make ‘sat’.

The Starfish have focused on the ‘I love Boats’ book and explored lots of new vocabulary. We have also continued our work on extending sentences using the word ‘because’, supporting understanding of ‘why’ questions and explanations.

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

**** Provide some opportunities for small world play in the bath at bath time. Add boats (or bowls/trays if your child doesn’t have any boats), little people, plastic animals etc. Join in with their play, taking on the role of one of the little people or animals, e.g. pretending you’ve fallen in the water and need rescuing. Playing games like this with your child provides great opportunities to introduce new language (e.g. rescue, sinking, emergency) plus model creating stories in its earliest form.