**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 11th –15th March 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been:  **semi-detached, terraced, detached, bungalow, flat \***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

What a wet, wild and windy week it’s been! The children have spent more time than usual inside due to the extreme weather conditions, but we have observed some truly wonderful imaginative play and creative ideas with their use of the open-ended resources available. A particularly popular theme has been creating ‘shows’. Children have worked together to create stages using wooden blocks and then performed dance and singing acts, accompanied with musical instruments. The growth in confidence to perform in front of others has been remarkable! The children have been using vocabulary such as ‘audience’, ‘round of applause’, and ‘stage’, and many have been inspired to create signs telling us what the show is. This is what child initiated play is all about and when you see it in full flow with a group of children all feeding off each other’s ideas it is a joy to watch!

Many thanks to everyone who has emailed/given us photos of your houses. The children have loved firstly spotting their house amongst the photos and then using the photo to talk about their home – the shapes on it, which window was which room, whether they have stairs, what the number or name of their house is. Lots have enjoyed creating their own pictures of their home, using shapes to represent different parts of the house. The photos have really supported language development, particularly positional language. We will be continuing to use them next week too so if you haven’t already done so then please do email a photo to us.

This week’s Baking Buddies mixed and kneaded dough to make a mushroom pizza for the rest of the crew. Chopping up the mushrooms was a particularly enjoyable task – although many said they weren’t keen on mushrooms so it would be interesting to know how many ate them!

We have also read lots of stories about the wind and storms which the children have loved. They are all quick to predict when a storm is coming by looking at the clouds in the sky – something we’ve observed lots this week!

**Out & About sessions:** The children have enjoyed windy ‘Out & About’ sessions at Greenfield Gardens this week where they practised their ball skills, felt and explored the power of the wind and developed their mark making skills. Our new suits helped to keep us warm and cosy in this wild weather.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish have played games where the focus has been on identifying the letter sounds ‘d’ and ‘o’ at the beginning and end of words. The children have been introduced to the letter shape for each of these sounds and spotted them in their friends, and their, names.

The Starfish focused on talking about the photos of their homes, and how many and who lives in their house, where their bedrooms are and what they like to do best in their homes.

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

* *Talk to your child about the different rooms in your house and what they do in each of the rooms, where they are in relation to other rooms and what sort of things are in each room. Having chats like this helps support your child’s vocabulary and enables them to make links between words and concepts.*
* *Make the most of the windy weather and go for a walk/play in the garden. Let them feel the force of the wind and observe how we can workout which direction it is blowing in by using the trees, washing etc to show us. Windmills, bubbles and streamers are great fun to use on windy days!*

**