**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 12th – 16th Nov 2018**

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

The children have absolutely loved using their torches at preschool! They have enjoyed reading and sharing stories by torch light in the dark dens, exploring the effects of shining their torches through/ on different natural and manmade objects on the shadow board, and creating movements with their torch lights to music in the dark. They have been particularly interested in the effects of shining their torches through our coloured Perspex blocks, discovering what colours can be created by putting two different coloured blocks together, e.g. red and yellow, blue and yellow. Their exploration, investigation and observation skills have had lots of opportunities to develop as well as some great sharing and turn taking with each other’s torches which has been really lovely to see.

The children have also spent lots of time helping with the gardening this week; filling our planters with compost, preparing last year’s daffodil bulbs for planting by cutting off their dead leaves, sorting bulbs and then the long task of planting them all – there were 100!! We are all looking forward to seeing the benefits of our hard work in the springtime.

**Out & About sessions:** The children took their torches with them on our Out & About sessions this week, where we went in search of dark nooks and crannies to shine our torches into. Many were hopeful that we might find some gold hidden in one! They also enjoyed exploring the effects of shining their torches through autumn leaves – many were completely fascinated by the patterns and how the leaf changed colour.

**Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

This week the Flying Fish began focusing on tuning their listening skills to hear alliteration and identify words which begin with the same sound. We have introduced to them to the Sound Box (full of objects which have begun with the sound p) and playing ‘Bertha Bus’, a bus which visits the zoo to pick up animals which all begin with the same sound. Recognising when words begin with the same sound is another crucial foundation block in building their phonic knowledge. As with all these skills it can take a while to develop so practising it little and often is the best way to support it.

This week the Starfish have enjoyed sharing stories with Louise in the dark den, using torches to point to where Louise needs to read and to find specific things in the pictures. This is helping them develop their listening and attention skills and their understanding of how books work.

**Ideas to support your child at home: \****All children to seem to love torches**– they make great presents! Encourage them to use theirs to explore dark places in the house or play I spy in the dark. (E.g. “I spy a tree”, if you are in the garden, and your child uses their torch to shine a light on the tree, or “I spy teddy”, if you are in their bedroom, and they find their teddy). In both games use ‘****position****’ words (e.g. behind, on top of, next too, underneath) to describe where it is, or where to shine the torch, which will help develop their vocabulary.* **\****Older children might be interested in whether they can shine their torch through objects or not. Use the words* ***solid*** *or* ***transparent*** *to describe why the light goes through or not.*