**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 25th Feb – 1st March 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been:  **terrified (how the pigs felt), material, construct\***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

This week we focused on the story of ‘The 3 Little Pigs’; using props to retell it orally, singing the song version of the story and creating other versions of the story using story maps to help us tell our ‘new’ story. The children have enjoyed the repetitive element of the story and many are adapting their voices to suit the different characters. We have also been sharing other stories about the 3 pigs (‘The Three Little Superpigs’ by Claire Evans has been a firm favourite) and different versions of the traditional 3 pigs tale.

The children have been challenged to construct houses from different resources to fit the three pigs in, and then test them to see if they withstand the wolf blowing them down – using a hair dryer! We have encouraged them to plan what they were going to do before they started their creations and it has been really interesting to listen to their explanations of why they choose the materials they did/ constructed it a certain way.

Our new water tray has enabled exploration of floating and sinking with different materials. This is an eternal favourite concept that all the children love to explore and is great for developing their observational skills and explanations.

Other highlights have included some super use of our ‘loose part’ resources, both inside and out, - with great collaborative work to create structures and games involving these lovely open ended resources, cheese scones being made by this weeks Baking Buddies, and the best 50p ever spent on an old boat pump – hours of fun pretending it was the wolf huffing and puffing!

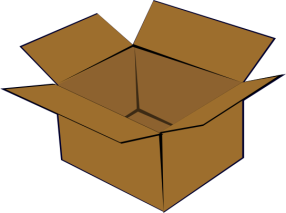
**Out & About sessions:** A super sunny session was spent in the stream at the Gwel an Mor woods on Wednesday. The children used natural and manmade resources to create boats to float down the stream. The play also led to fish pie and soup making, and finished with mud making – lots and lots of fun had.

**Sounds and Letters/language focus:**



The Flying Fish have been playing games with syllables – focusing on separating the syllables with a word and then blending separate syllables to make words. These games will help the children with ‘blending and segmenting’ skills – essential in learning to read and spell.

The Starfish children have focused on ‘The Three Little Pigs’ story using props to listen to the story being retold orally, joining in with the repeating phrases (e.g. “Little Pig, little pig let me come in”) and actions of the story. They have really enjoyed using the boat pump to make the ‘huff and puff’ of the wolf.

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

* *Save up some boxes, pots, tubes etc that you would usually put in the recycling and let your child use them to create either something from their imagination or a challenge which you give them (e.g a house to fit their teddy in, a boat to flaot in the bath). Masking tape is great for them to use independently as they can easily rip it to be able to use it). We would love to see a photo of anything they have created!*