**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 4th – 8th March 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been:  **author, illustrations \***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

It’s been a ‘bits and pieces’ week this week, due to all the exciting events which have fallen in it!

The week began with pasty making to celebrate St Piran’s day. The children practised their crimping skills (which isn’t easy!), which is a great way of building up finger muscle strength! We also made pancakes on the Tuesday which the children ate for snack. There was lots of discussion about which topping the children like the best on their pancakes and we practised our counting skills by seeing which the most popular topping was.

All of our children love books so celebrating World Book Day was an easy task. They have been developing their listening, sharing and explaining skills through sharing their favourite books with their friends, and it’s been lovely to observe groups of children giggling over books, or finding things in pictures together.

We have been working with the children on ‘Picture Stories’, where they draw the story which is in their head, and the adult annotates it. The children’s ideas have been amazing and seeing an adult write what they are saying has encouraged lots of them to produce their own ‘pretend’ writing. This is such an important skill to see children taking part in as it is the very beginning of them understanding what writing is, whilst developing the mindset and confidence that it is something they can do!

**Out & About sessions:** For various reasons this week (weather, staffing and visits) we have been unable to get ‘Out & About’. However, the children have enjoyed practising putting on the new ‘all in one’ suits and sharing our very own ‘We’re going on a Dinosaur Hunt’ story book created by our Out & About adventures.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

This week the Flying Fish focus has been on blending ‘onset and rime’ words, to help develop the children’s blending and segmenting skills. This is where words are broken up like - c-at, b-ear, ch-ain, sh-ell. The games we have played encouraged listening carefully, finding the correct picture and then posting them in ‘yes/no’ boxes (depending on whether they liked them or not – with some very funny explanations for their reasons!). We have also created words from the letters sounds we have learnt so far and the ‘rimes’ – at, ar and or.

The Starfish have spent time sharing favourite stories and talking about their favourite pictures in the stories, telling their friends about what they like in the pictures.

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

* *Even the very youngest child can make up stories – their small world play (e.g. cars, dolls, houses, trains, farm sets, animals etc) is the first place that you will see this happen as they talk to themselves whilst they play, narrating what is happening in their play. Listen in the next time they happen to be using these sorts of toys, and join in with them, letting them lead the action of the ‘story’.*
* *If your child is keen to draw, then annotating their pictures with what they tell you about it is a great way for them to see how writing works. You may find they are keen to ‘write’ themselves – praise them for their writing and don’t be tempted to make them write it ‘properly’ – it’s important they feel confident about just having a go.*