**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 3rd- 6th December 2019 **

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

A very busy week with lots of ideas and themes used in the children’s play and learning. The arrival of Elvis the Elf (with a letter from Santa) has caused lots of excitement. Elvis arrived with a basket of Christmas stories, all with a different number stuck on them. Santa sent a letter with him, telling us that Elvis loves to listen to Christmas stories so each day the children have to find Elvis and see which number he is holding, and then find the story it relates to. We also found that Elvis is rather cheeky and needs reminding of our Golden Rules. The children have been telling him at the end of each day which Golden rule they did well during the day so that Elvis learns about them. This has really helped the children focus on the behaviour they feel proud of and encouraged them to reflect on the day.

Our Reverse Advent Calendar Box is proving very successful, both in developing the children’s understanding of others lives and numeral recognition/ counting. They are beginning to understand the concept of ‘one more’ (working out how many will be in the box tomorrow), and the link between the quantity and the numeral it relates to. We have also had some interesting conversations about money and how families are all different. Big concepts for little minds to begin to reflect on!

There has also been fun with water play and early capacity concepts, making beds for bears with junk modelling and language work using the stories of ‘Brown Bear, Brown Bear what do you see?’ and ‘Bear Snores On’.

**Out & About sessions:** We had a lovely sunny morning at the little beach on Tuesday and trialled using ‘sticky boards’ to collect treasures from the beach. However, we soon discovered the boards didn’t like damp things! Undeterred the children soon found other uses for the boards and used them to dig, make shapes and create pathways for others to walk along – demonstrating their great abilities to think ‘outside the box’ and use their creative skills, something our children are fantastic at doing!

On Friday some of the children went to Harbour House (the old people’s home in Portreath) to trial a new project we are hoping to begin. The idea is to do a ‘session’ at the home where the residents can observe and take part in elements of the activities we do, e.g. singing. Today we played a Christmas Song game and the children created decorations which they then choose a resident to give the one they had made to. It was such a lovely session – with both the residents and the children clearly benefitting from the experience.

**Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish have played ‘Cross the River’ with letter sounds s, a, p and objects. They can only ‘cross the river’ if they hear the initial letter sound of their object otherwise the fishes nibble their toes. We also played a similar game which involved swimming to islands with specific sounds on them – lots of fun!!

The Starfish have been focused on the story ‘Brown Bear’ – listening to and finding the correct animals, retelling the story using props and playing games with the animals and colours from the story.

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

* If your child has an advent calendar at home encourage them to use their counting skills to find out how many doors they have opened, and (with your help) how many they have left to open. Support them to touch each one as they count them, so that they say one number name at a time. You can encourage the older pre-school children to find the number door they are looking for each day by showing them it on a piece of paper first. This will help them develop their visual memory skills.
* When they come home from preschool ask them which story Elvis wanted to have read today and if they remember where he was hiding. Recalling events in the day will help develop their use of language, plus engage the use of their memories.