**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 6th – 10th May 2019**

\*Our wonder words this week have been: **cocoon, caterpillar, webbing, jaws.**

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

Last Friday a package from ‘The Fairies in the Wall’ arrived at pre-school – containing five baby caterpillars – they were tiny! The Fairies in the Wall have tasked the children with the job of looking after the caterpillars as they know the children are so good at caring for each other and the environment. The children have been very interested in watching the caterpillars and reminding each other to be gentle with (and around) the pot containing them. They have observed the webbing produced by the caterpillars and, most interesting of all to pre-schoolers, the poo accumulating in the pot! This has led to some humorous conversations!

Continuing with the theme of insects, we have also been drawing pictures of bugs to use in our art project run by the Portreath Neighbourhood Development Plan team. This involves an artist coming in to work with the children to create a piece of art work which represents parts of Portreath they love. We decided to use the woods as our base (the primary school used the beach). Watch this space for news about how the project is coming along . . .

Grover’s Mummy gave us a HUGE box to play in this week – and what fun it was! The children had great fun using it as a den, a cave, a house, rolling in plus many other things. The imagination used in play with it was lovely to see, but what it supported more than anything was collaborative play – groups of children engaged in playing the same game together, all giving ideas, listening to each other and finding pleasure in each other’s company – a joy to observe!

**Out & About sessions:** On Tuesday some of the Flying Fish children visited the little beach for another counting skills session. They also spent time creating pictures using natural materials found on the beach. On Wednesday we went on a 3D shape walk to Greenfield Gardens. We found lots of cylinders and cuboids along the way! In the gardens we enjoyed the large space for running and rolling games, plus practising our ‘self-control’ whilst playing games to support our self-regulation skills. The children’s favourite was the ‘Ready, Steady . . .’ game where they have to listen for the word ‘go’ before they can run/jump/roll. The grown ups play tricks though and say words which sound like ‘go’, e.g. ‘goat’, ‘gorilla’, ‘gooey’. The children can only move when they actually hear ‘go’. Listening skills and lots of self-control are needed for the game and it was great to see these develop with practice during the session.

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:**

The Flying Fish children have played games which helped practice the ‘n’ and ‘f’ letter sounds learnt last week, plus continuing work on hearing the subtle difference between n/m. They had to swim to different ‘sound islands’ depending on the sound their object began with. And in ‘Sound Board’ they focused on the last sound in a word and whether it was a m or n.

The Starfish have been continuing to practise their rhyming skills, making up nonsense names with words which rhyme with their and their friends’ names. They particularly enjoy rhyming the pre-school adults names!

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

* Empty cardboard boxes must be one of the best open-ended resources a child can play with. They are perfect for inspiring imaginative and creative play – skills that are so important to foster in childhood (and life generally). Any time you find yourself with a box, be it big or little, ask your child if they would like it to play with. See what they choose to do with it. Sometimes creativity needs a little spark to start it off so if they seem unsure of what to do with it you could model something you would use if for, e.g. a treasure box, a home for mice, a castle, a racing car. The older they are the more likely they will come up with their own ideas.

 

