Play & Learning Newsletter

4th – 8th November 2024

**Fireworks, noisy, bang, dark, torch, Diwali, festival, celebrate, darkness**

Wonder words to use with your child:

A lovely first week back after the week off and the children have enjoyed talking about their Half term and fire work experiences with their friends and the staff

This week was the perfect example of how we interweave the children’s own experiences within the learning and play that occurs within the pre-school, plus introduce new experiences to them which help to widen their view and understanding of the world, plus learn new concepts.

After the weekend we knew there would be lots of talk about fireworks and we also had observed how many children were noticing the poppies that they had seen around the village. The Hindu festival of Diwali was also celebrated at the end of the previous week. This is a festival which young children can easily grasp the meaning of, and it holds lots of similarities with the way Christmas or other family religions / festivals are celebrated so is great for encouraging comparisons and the developing understanding of our similarities with others within a wider world.

The children have listened/watched the Diwali story as a shadow puppet show – which completely transfixed them! This then led to lots and lots of exploration with shadows, both on the shadow board.

The Creating Area enabled the children to mark make in so many different ways this week – a black wall to practise vertical mark making (with balancing skills thrown in whilst they stood on stools and steps to reach up high) carboard tube firework painting to develop finer motor skills plus our usual choice of tape, scissors and collage that’s always on offer to them.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** Rhyming has continued to be a focus for the Flying Fish with a game called ‘Cross the River’ which involves not getting your feet bitten by fishes as you cross the river – but only if you have the rhyming object! We have also been focusing on the children recognising their names and the initial letter that it starts with.

The Starfish have enjoyed singing the 5 Little Fireworks song, making firework pictures and noises, stories and singing.

 **Out & About sessions:**

Our first visit to Harbour house this term was a huge success and very much enjoyed by everyone. We ran this intergenerational project last year and found it very beneficial to our children the residents and becoming more involved in our community was fantastic.

This week we went on Poppy hunts around the village – and talking all about why there are poppies everywhere and what they are there for. We also spent time in the church gardens looking at the poppy wreaths – the children were very interested in what people had written on the wreaths which then led to looking at the writing on memorial stones and thinking about how important it is to be careful and respectful of these stones in the garden. Big concepts for little ones but they all responded really well and knew that they must not climb or walk on these. We counted 28 poppies and also looked for shapes in our environment as we walked – they were amazing shape detectives.

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| This week we have been singing 5 Little Fireworks which the children have loved. They would love to share it with you at home too! It’s sung to the tune of ‘10 Green bottles hanging on the wall’. We encourage the children to show how many fireworks are left with their fingers. 5 little fireworks standing in a row, 5 little fireworks standing in a row, And when one little firework decides it’s time to go *(crouch down and put your hands together so you can make a rocket shape)***5,4,3,2,1 . . . . BLAST OFF!!** There’ll be 4 little fireworks standing in a row etc.  |