Play & Learning Newsletter

31st Jan – 4th Feb 2022

**Chinese New Year, chopsticks, celebration, Gung hay fat choy!**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Chinese New Year has been well and truly celebrated this week at pre-school with lots of children demonstrating a very keen interest in how others celebrate this festival of spring and welcoming in good luck. We all began the week with a viewing of Cbeebies ‘Let’s Celebrate Chinese New Year’ using the projector. These programmes are a fantastic way of introducing children to the different festivals that are celebrated in this country and around the world, always shared through the experiences of a young child. Throughout the programme we talked about the similarities between how Chinese New Year is celebrated and how Christmas is celebrated. Many of the older children are beginning to understand that celebrations often involve feasts, family and friends coming together, decorating the house, music and visiting places that are special to us. This concept is a really important one as it helps builds up their understanding that no matter where we come from or how we live our lives there are always similarities between us and things that we can bond over.

This year is the year of the tiger and, having watched a Chinese New Year parade, we decide to create a tiger head that we could use in our parade. This has led to watching dragon and lion dances and learning how the dancers move and the way the instruments are used and then creating our own versions. The children worked as a team to create the tiger’s head and on Thursday and Friday enjoyed working together to create the parade with our dancing tiger. Lots of fun and they children had a little taste of what it would be like to watch a Chinese New Year parade.

Snack time on Wednesday and Thursday was lots of fun with noodle eating with chopsticks – very tricky and required lots of persistence and determination!

Other popular play & learning opportunities this week have included our Chinese Restaurant, making Chinese good luck red envelopes filled with pretend money (something that is given to children at Chinese New Year), lots of fun with friends in the rice tray with the rice machine (and rice baths!) and dragon riding in the rock pool area.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘t’ and have been sorting objects according to their initial sound based on the other sounds that they have learnt so far.*

*The Starfish have been using instruments to wake up and calm dancing tigers, using their self-control to make quiet and loud sounds at the right times – very tricky to do when you are little!*

 **Out & About sessions:** We managed an Out & About on Tuesday morning to Greenfield Gardens to explore the effects of the wind on making different objects move. We had lots of fun chasing feather, coloured cellophane and kites that we had made. We also had fun playing self-control games involving running (the children are getting so good at this now!) and climbing trees in the den area of the gardens.

|  |
| --- |
| Ideas to support your child at home: Your child may be keen to share the cbeebies ‘Let’s celebrate Chinese New Year ‘ with you and talk about what we did at pre-school this week. They all loved using chopsticks for snack and in the role play area. Using them is a fantastic way of developing the muscles and co-ordination in their fingers which will ultimately help them gain better control over pens and other mark making tools. It’s also great for building up persistence and determination - two attitudes which are essential for success in learning.  |