Play & Learning Newsletter

**You can’t catch me! Sly, cunning, trusted, wise, foolish, Holi, celebrate**

10th – 14th March 2025

Wonder words to use with your child:

The children loved the Runaway Pancake so much last week that we decided to use the classic story of The Gingerbread Man to further develop their ideas and language around the concept of food running away! All of the children have been developing their story sequencing skills to retell the story. The older children have been exploring the words ‘sly’ and ‘cunning’ and ‘trusted’ to talk about the characters of the fox and the gingerbread man – complex language for little people but they have grasped the meaning of the words in the context of the story. They have also been creating their own versions of the story – something they are becoming so great at doing! This year’s preschool crew are certainly a very imaginative lot! 😊

The playdough table has seen small medium and large gingerbread people being rolled out and cut and then decorated. Children have been developing their strength and control in the finger joints as they rolled very tiny balls for eyes and noses and smiles, plus carefully pressed them flat for buttons; really great experiences for helping them acquire the physical skills needed for holding a pen.

Baking buddies was a big success again this week and they made some delicious large and tiny gingerbread people to share with their friends.

We also celebrated and found out about Holi. We introduced the children to this colourful festival through watching the cbeebies programme ‘Let’s celebrate’ and through information books. The children were very interested – particularly in the throwing powdered paint at each other element of it! Instead of throwing it at each other they got the chance to throw it on huge pieces of cardboard outside. They worked together to paint the boards with water first and then sprinkled and threw powder paint to create beautiful colourful images. Exploration, language and observation skills were used in bucketful’s plus lots of team spirit – a lovely experience for all involved.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘n’ – a long sound that when made correctly makes our noses tingle! We have used the sound box and metal mike to explore items that begin with this sound and have listened for it at the end of words as well – all tricky thinks for little ears to identify but the Flying Fish are working well with this.*

*The Starfish have been developing their understanding of positional language with very active little gingerbread men that have been hiding under, behind, between, on top of and beside things.*

 **Out & About sessions:** We had our weekly visit to Harbour house. It makes the residents feel so happy which in turn makes us all feel happy.

We played some anticipation games at the astro turf this week such as what’s the time Mr Wolf, Granny’s footsteps and the honey pot game. Not only is being outside in natural light vital for healthy eyesight, strong heart and lung development when chasing and running around - studies have also shown that games that make children feel very excited and scared at the same time are very good at helping children deal with the world around them and supports being more resilient.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Reading and sharing stories with your child is one of the best ways to extend and develop their vocabulary – something which helps them in so many ways as they progress from pre-school to big school and then through their school journey (even in secondary school!). A wide vocabulary makes a huge difference to their ability to explain their ideas plus will be reflected in their writing at a later stage in school. Chatting about what is happening in the story that you are reading to them and picking up on any unusual or new words and explaining them is all it needs to help your child become more aware of different words. You will be surprised what their amazing sponge like brains will absorb! |