Play & Learning Newsletter

10- 14th June 2024

**Pitch, rucksack, tent pegs, mallet, campfire, sleeping bags**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Another camping book has provided further inspiration for play and learning experiences this week. The book ‘When we go camping’ by Sally Sutton is a song/story which looks at all the things that happen when you go camping. It’s been great for further deepening the children’s understanding of ‘camping’ and providing great opportunities for talking about and sharing their experiences of camping.

Another new medium that the children have explored this week has been clay – a rather messy but utterly delightful experience of squishing, sliding and squeezing this wet, malleable resource. Not everyone was keen to have a go but those that did spent long periods of time exploring it – very calming and great for strengthening finger and hand muscles. The addition of natural materials has helped them explore it in many different ways.

The rockpool area transformed into a lovely relaxing beach area with sand, water and towels to relax on. The children have loved taking their shoes off and sitting in the sand while building sandcastles. This has paired perfectly with our ice cream shop and café role play area and we have been delighted to see some really lovely role plays games develop with lovely language boing used.

And finally some fun campfire songs have been learnt – our favourite being one about a ’bay where the watermelons grow’! See if your child can remember it!

 **Out & About sessions:** On Monday we took all of our Flying fish children down to watch Portreath Primary school sports day. The children loved cheering their siblings and friends on and got to see Mrs Forsdick running a race.

We also took a group down to the bark area this week where we worked on team work and solving problems – ( they came up with some great strategies when Me and Mel both wanted to go the same way on the obstacle course and got grumpy with each other ). The children are already showing that they are much more confident in the school environment and children who were very quiet and reserved last visit when the big children came out to play were not phased at all this time ☺

We had our second week of forest school which was very much enjoyed – we checked on our hedgehogs, collected interesting items to show our friends and made a natural mobile to decorate base camp. Fridays group is being postponed until next week due to the weather.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:***

The Starfish have continued rhyming fun with a sorting game. They are doing well with this essential skill – practice makes perfect though!

The Flying Fish have been creating rhyming strings and noticing the similarities in how the words are spelt. They have also been playing a matching and sorting games where they are listening to the initial sounds of words and pairing them up. We have also been practicing our letter formation in the air using large movements. Children cannot be expected to write letters if they can’t make the movements required to write them in large ways. Practicing large movements of letter formation in the air is a great way of supporting this.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Send a letter to a family member 😊

See if your child would like to send a letter/picture to a family member. Let them draw or ‘write’ what they want to send, annotating it if your child wants to ‘tell’ the family member various things. Send it off by post and encourage the family member to write back. Children love receiving a letter in the post!

This is a great activity for encouraging children to understand the purpose of writing and often inspires mark making, something that is a crucial step in the learning to write process.