Play & Learning Newsletter

7th – 11th Feb 2022

**Once upon a time, the end, puppet, once upon a time, happily ever after, storyteller, puppet theatre**

Wonder words to use with your child:

National Storytelling week is in the month of February – a great jumping board for developing this skill in our preschool crew. The ability to tell a story is within all of us and young children are particularly good at this – seen most commonly in the stories they make up as they play freely, both by themselves and with friends – an essential building block in progressing to the ultimate aim of eventually writing stories once they get to school. The classic story of ‘The Tiger Who Came to Tea’ has been our inspiration for storytelling, following on from the children’s interest in tigers from Chinese New Year. The children have used the ideas from the story in the different play opportunities that we set up this week – from tiger fabric to dress up in in the home corner to a tiger and little photo puppets of themselves in the doll’s house – with the result of many lovely stories being created through their play, which have then been retold with the support of the adults so that the children realise that they are creating stories all the time.

The Flying Fish made up their own versions of the story with different animals visiting their house, eating all sorts of food and taking them off for adventures to different places. It has been wonderful to observe the children’s imaginations whilst doing this, whilst also being heavily influenced by the type of stories that are read to them!

We have also had a puppet theatre this week, inspired by the children finding the bag of puppets in the cupboard last week. There has been an audience and money to buy tickets and lots of very funny ‘shows’ put on by the children. We created laminated photo puppets of every child so that they could use these in the shows. It’s been truly wonderful to hear the amazing language and ideas that the children have been using whilst engaging in play with this props and it’s clear to see that the pre-school crew are super storytellers!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘a’ through our sound box. We have been looking in mirrors at the shape of our mouths when we make different sounds, which is a really important concept for little ones to understand and can help them create clearer speech sounds.*

*The Starfish have been developing their awareness of environmental sounds by playing games with bottles of water, squeaky balls, collections of keys, packets of food and then having them hidden and working out what sound they can hear. This is so good for developing their listening skills and paves the way to enabling their ears to distinguish letter sounds later on in their phonic journey.*

 **Out & About sessions:** Frogspawn season has begun and on Monday and Tuesday we were able to find some in the ditch of water that is at the beginning of Illogan Woods. In fact not only frogspawn – frogs as well!! A wonderful opportunity for developing the children’s knowledge of wildlife and understanding the cycle of change that occurs. There were fantastic observations being made by the children about what they could see and great questions too indicating thoughtful thinking.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Have a go at making up a story with your child where you provide the ‘boring’ bits and they come up with the exciting bits. E.g Once upon a time there was a (they decide what there was, e.g. animal, character, object) called (they come up with name) who lived in (they decide what they live in). One day they got up and decided to eat (they decide) for breakfast. Etc. This helps them to come up with their own ideas but in way which is less overwhelming then you saying – tell me a story. The very young Starfish children may need you to model the story or given them a choice of two things for each time that you are asking them for their ideas. This will make it easier for them to choose what to say.  |