Play & Learning Newsletter

7th – 11th March 2022

**You can’t catch me! Sly, cunning, trusted.**

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 whilst using props and picture cards 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 gingerbread men 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.

We finally managed to celebrate St Piran’s Day (better late than never – staff shortages meant we had to postpone it from Monday) on Friday with the making of scones with the Baking Buddies and enjoying a cream tea with teaching about the right order to put your cream and jam on! We also learnt the pasty song and watched some St Piran day parades on the projector so that we could learn the Oggy, oggy, oggy chant!! You can imagine how much the children loved this!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *Identifying words within sentences is a skill that the Flying Fish have been developing this week. This is really good for helping them realise that language isn’t one long continuous string but made up of separate words which ultimately helps them when learning to read. It has been surprisingly tricky but they are mastering it!*

*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:**

What had been planned as an Out & About rain adventure on Wednesday morning turned into a cat adventure instead. The children’s attention was completely fixed on the antics of a cat who decided to follow us all the way into the woods, play with us whilst we explored and then follow us all the way home again. The children thought it was great and came up with a name and reasons for why it was joining us.

Thursday saw us checking up on the frogspawn (now tadpoles) in the watery ditch, searching for signs of spring and practising our throwing skills whilst exploring how far we could throw sticks into muddy puddles. There was also lots of muddy climbing fun to be had as well.

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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! |