Play & Learning Newsletter

18th – 22nd November 2024

**Snoring, sneezes, storm, hibernation, lair, blustery, nocturnal.**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have used the story ‘Bear Snores On’ with the children, focusing on the concepts of darkness and light. The children have really enjoyed this story and we have used it to support their growing vocabulary banks as there are some fantastic words used in the story that were unfamiliar to the children. It has been really interesting to hear what they thought the words, ‘slumbering’, ‘blustery’ and ‘whimpering’ and ‘lair’ mean and it has highlighted how much we take for granted that children understand what they are hearing. The blustery weather has been ideal for reinforcing that word! The children have been thinking about different ways to wake a sleeping bear, and the Flying Fish have been using these ideas as a stimulus for mark making with intention, something that will support their progress towards eventual writing.

The top room has been ‘the dark room’ this week, which the children have loved! Much better for torch use! Thank you to everyone who sent a torch in – it’s meant that all the children have been able to spend time exploring shadows, transparency, and light reflections with no limits on how long they could use the torch for. Great opportunities for developing scientists and encouraging critical thinking skills. We will continue to use them next week also so please bring them back in on Monday if your child brought theirs home.

Other highlights this week have been:

* Large Teepee, soft blankets and cushions to make an owl nest in the rock pool area with the balance beam outside the teepee for the owls to perch on their branch.
* A tray with sand and another with water to enable them to transport the sand and water between the trays and to poor, scoop and mix. Lots of our children love to transport!
* Dark den and nocturnal animals with torches and various resources to explore with them.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** This week the Flying Fish have moved on to ‘alliteration’ and the skill of recognising when words begin with the same sound – another tricky job for their little ears to develop! The children have had to work out which presents we can give to the bear from the story – but they can only be presents which begin with the same sound ( S ) . They have also been off to the zoo on the bus, picking up different animals which have escaped – again, all beginning with the same letters sound ( s ) . At the moment it is very much ‘teaching’ and modelling to the children this new concept but we shall be focusing on it for the next few weeks so that they can begin to use this skill independently. This is a skill that you can support your child with at home by drawing their attention to when names in the family begin with the same sound or you are eat food that begins with the same sound as your name, e.g. marshmallow Mummy, sausage Sam etc.

The Starfish have developed their language skills through using the story of the Bear snores on to choose what sort of bear they would like to find on a Bear Hunt (from photos of real bears). This has been providing them with focused opportunities to extend and develop their vocab and describing skills.

 **Out & About sessions:** On Monday we had our weekly visit to harbour house**.** This week we did nursery rhyme bingo with the residence. Relationships are really starting to build up and strengthen and the children have been referring to some of their new friends at Pre-school and looking forwards to seeing them.

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| If your child doesn’t have a torch of their own, then we would strongly recommend buying them one for Christmas – particularly one which has a strong light. The children have all loved using their torches over the past week, with them adding another element to an experience or activity. They are great for making sharing a story exciting whilst under the covers or in the dark den, encouraging your child to focus on specific things in the pictures. They are super for investigating what makes good shadows and exploring the best way of producing one (some lovely trial and error experiences). They make a walk on a damp and deary day a bit more interesting with hunts for holes to shine their light down. They make dancing in the dark lots of fun and can support understanding of prepositions for where to shine them. And the list goes on . . . definitely a top pressie for a pre-schooler 😊. |