Play & Learning Newsletter

13th-17th March 2023

**Sign language, deaf, hearing, silent, Mother’s Day, lovely**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week is National British Sign Language week – aimed to highlight the importance of sign language and raise people’s awareness of it. Jannah has trained in British sign language and regularly uses it with the children, for example in our ‘hello’ song during Flying Fish group times and during song sessions – and it’s been amazing what the children have picked up just by copying and absorbing the signs that Jannah uses. This week we decide to focus learning 10 animal signs which the children, the starfish in particular, have been working hard on learning. We have been incorporating using these animal signs in nursery rhymes and songs. The Flying Fish children have used ear defenders to experience what it is like when you can’t hear things clearly and we have also been reading and discussing the story ‘Freddie and the Fairy’ by Julia Donaldson to learn about the rules for how we can be good communicators for people who may not be able to hear clearly (no mumbling, look at people’s faces and don’t put your hand over your mouth when you are speaking).

Our week has ended with celebrating St Patrick’s Day on Friday with the children creating St Patrick’s Day hats, having a go at Irish dancing and having a green themed snack.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been focusing on breaking down words to really listen to how many syllables are in a word, they have then clapped out these syllables.*

*This week the Starfish have been exploring loud/quiet sounds and how we can make them with instruments. They have been identifying whether sounds are loud or quiet and working out what could be making these sounds.*

 **Out & About sessions:**

This week we managed a couple of out and about sessions to the allotment and to the Astro turf in the play park. The children planted seed potatoes and checked on how the other vegetables are growing.

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| Ideas to support your child at home:

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| If we want our children to grow up with an understanding and tolerance for the different ways of life in this world we need to draw their awareness to the experiences of people. This can be done in a very gentle way and stories are often the best way to do it – another great reason to be regularly sharing them with your child! Some good ones that we use at pre-school are ‘Freddie and the Fairy’ by Julia Donaldson, ‘Best Friends’ by Mark Chambers, and ‘We are Family’ by Patricia Hegarty. If there are any specific things that you would like to talk to your child about through a book please let us know as we can order a wide variety of books from the library service which cover all sorts of different issues and topics.  |

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