Play & Learning Newsletter

 3 – 7th March 2025

**Pancakes, mix, whisk, ingredients, sprinkle, measure, toppings, frying pan**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have made the most of one of our favourite days of the year – Pancake Day! It is always a day that little children hold dear and provokes lots of talk about favourite toppings, how they get made and parental cooking antics whilst making them😊! The baking buddies worked as a team to make the batter for them and then took in in turns to watch me cook them – and flip them! We then all sat down to a Pancake Party and enjoyed a choice of banana, raspberries or lemon (or all 3!) on them. Very happy children! There has been lots of different shaped pancake making with the playdough in the home corner along with frying pans

We always love to incorporate a story into our week’s learning and this week we used The Runaway Pancake as a perfect opportunity for oral storytelling using props. The children have been retelling it themselves using animal and pancake props and have even created their own versions using their little photo versions of themselves which they have loved doing. We also read Mr Wolf’s pancakes and The Giant Pancake.

Flipping pancakes is always a fun challenge! It is also very good for developing the children’s shoulder and wrist strength which are essential for being able to eventually hold a pen. The starfish Children have had the extra challenge of having to walk along a plank /line whilst doing it – requiring lots of concentration and co-ordination! The creative area has seen lots of pancake decorating with many fruits to cut out and stick on.

On Thursday it was World book day. The children have loved showing us their favourite stories and telling us what they like about their chosen story, who their favourite character is and why. We have used cut out pictures of the children to use as props so they can become part of their favourite story and influence how the story plays out and possible endings. Storytelling enhances imagination, helps to visualize spoken words, improve vocabulary, refines communication skills and can help to develop their concentration skills to name just a few benefits!

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been focusing on distinguishing the letter ‘i’ sound when playing the sound box game and Metal Mike. We looked at cvc words with ‘i’ in the middle (pig, zip etc) and we practiced writing ‘i’ as well as follow my line drawings.*

*The 5 Crispy pancake song has supported the Starfish’s listening skills as well as the story* pancakes, Pancakes by Eric Carle – We Asked ‘What do you see?’ on each page to encourage naming of things that they see and pointing to it. The song has been good for practising their number skills, developing their finger muscle strength whilst representing numbers with their fingers. This has been a good activity for developing their subitising skills as well.

**Out & About sessions:**

We had some lovely Out & Abouts to the Little beach this week. Their sense of road safety and awareness of what is around them has developed so well over these past few months. We had lots of fun engaging in activities which supported our gross and fine motor skills with the parachute and paintbrushes, buckets and spades. At Harbour house the children and residents made 3 D spring time birds together and they also celebrated James 104 birthday together which made his day.

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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. (We will be focusing on another popular story next week) |
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