**Nursery Weekly Newsletter – Week ending 16.10.20**

We have had yet another lovely week in our Nursery class. The weather has been kind to us, again, and we have taken full advantage of being outdoors in the autumn sunshine.

Our walk in Coed Cadno this week focused on listening skills. The children listened for ‘sounds of nature’ and ‘man-made sounds’. We heard a wide variety of sounds and, generally, they were able to say into which category each sound could be grouped.

We continued to explore the different skills required for ‘dough disco’ and should soon be able to follow a whole session from start to finish. If you want to see what’s involved in this fun activity, which exercises childrens’ fine motor skills, have a look on Youtube – there are many different programmes to choose from (we are still working on the slow, basic programme and the Insy Wincy spider activity). You could practise at home with your children – ask them to show you the moves!

Our Nursery Rhyme theme has been extended this week with the addition of “Hey Diddle Diddle”. We have learned the rhyme/song, with actions, and have had great fun with everyone performing well.

As a follow-up to Baa Baa Blacksheep the children have made some wonderful loofah print sheep. Some of the children took these home on Friday but don’t worry if you haven’t had one yet; that just means they have gone onto our Nursery Rhyme display board. These children will take their creations home when we change the board next half-term. The same applies to the hand print spiders on webs that went home on Friday.

We also began our weekly ‘News’ session this week, with children learning to talk in turn and listen to others. To encourage children to only talk when it’s their turn, we pass around a talk-teddy. Only the person holding the Teddy is allowed to tell their news; when another child is speaking, the others in the group are encouraged to listen and think of any questions they might want to ask the speaker.

As a tribute to Harvest time, we have learned to sing ‘Big, Red Combine Harvester’ and watched a short film showing how a combine harvester trundles through the fields, cutting and processing the grain. Also, on the same theme, we have watched Brambly Hedge Autumn story, focusing on the different fruits and nuts the mice collect for their winter store.

Thank you for sending your child to school on Shwmae day beautifully dressed in Welsh colours. Ours was a very colourful class that day and we were able to ‘show off’ to the main school because our dance and movement session in the hall was on the same day (Nursery Rhyme based, of course!) Thank you, also, for your very generous donations to our fund for Welsh resources for the school. To celebrate the day we listened to and learned the ‘Mr Hapus ydw i’ and ‘Mr Crocodil ydw i’ songs. They loved singing and performing these. We also started to learn how to talk about the weather in Welsh – ‘Sut mae’r tywydd heddiw?’ We’ll be repeating this each week, until all the children are confident.

Our group-learning sessions began this week, too. In three alternating groups, the children are given the opportunity to learn/practise their letter sounds, use Numicon/Dice/number games to develop their counting skills and listen to a story, answering questions and discussing events and characters. Working in smaller groups, allows the children to participate more easily and encourages children who are a little shy speaking in front of the whole class.

Next week (only three days) we’re going to be focusing on autumn. I hadn’t planned on doing this until after half-term but the leaves are now falling swiftly and, should the government decide to extend the holiday by a week, I fear there will be none left when we return so we’ll make the most of what we can see now. On the note of an extended half-term, we are all still awaiting the announcement on Monday as to whether Primary schools will be affected. I sincerely hope not but we will have no choice in the matter if that is what is decided.

Thank you once again for your continued support – your children are all amazing and each morning is a pleasure.

Mrs Kneath and the Nursery team