Dear Parents, 

This is just a note to explain the new topic of ‘At the Seaside’ that the children learn about during the months of May and June.

Usually, we begin the topic by talking about how the summer is approaching and holidays. Children are often very excited about the upcoming holidays and are keen to share that they are going somewhere - in a boat / car/ train / plane etc. We discuss different methods of transport and the best ways to get to certain places – why do we go to Scotland/ France on a boat? If we are going shopping in Belfast, would we take a plane? We also look at the transition between Spring and Summer.

Due to the current situation, many of us have cancelled holidays this year, so this talk can be kept brief and approached sensitively if children (and adults!) are disappointed. We have a story this week called “Who Takes the Train?” that will serve as an introduction to the idea of transport.

In the next few weeks, we have another story coming up that focuses more on the seaside. This ebook is longer and more complex in terms of language. There will be lots to explain and discuss, so this story will run over 2 weeks.

In our experience, children are intrigued about sea creatures and the landscape under the sea. We facilitate discussion about favourite sea creatures and watch videos of these on YouTube. We would then make our favourite sea creatures, using various materials (shiny paper, foil, paint, bubble wrap, google eyes, glitter….). This is of course entirely optional at the moment, but it might keep little hands busy for a while! The social media site ‘Pinterest’ has fantastic ideas for very simple activities, topic based or otherwise.

Another nice (optional) activity to do based on this topic is make some “seaside” buns – all you will need is some plain fairy buns. The children can then make blue icing for the ‘sea’, and use a crumbled digestive/biscuit for the ‘sand’. They could even add a cocktail stick umbrella as a parasol!

Remember to try and continue practicing words and previous sounds as much as possible as these are the areas most children struggle to recall if not revised frequently.

As always, we wish you and your children the very best. We hope everyone is getting on well with this new way of learning, and thank you for your continued support. We hope everyone is keeping safe.

Take care,

P1 Teachers

