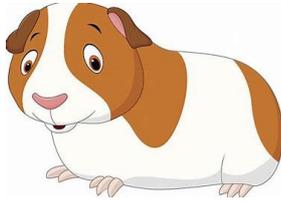


**Welcome back to the Animal Nursery. We hope you
enjoy the tale for today.**



Robert



Gwen



Debbie



Scott



Rosie



George



Mabel



Bertie



Simon



Terry



Coco



Felicity



Martin



Dana



Henry



Saffron

The Tale of the Party

It was the day of the end of term party at the nursery. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo had been so busy early in the morning, moving all the furniture back besides the walls to create more space for playing ring games and dancing. They had also prepared party food and decorated tables with tablecloths and napkins and sparkly decorations. To make this a surprise for the animals Mrs Bear closed the door to the kitchen side of the nursery and pulled the big grey screen across that acted as a divider. Then Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo welcomed the animals into the other side of the nursery.

First to arrive was Gwen wearing a yellow sparkly top. Then Simon arrived wearing a blue and white stripey shirt and a blue woollen tie. Next to arrive was Dana who was wearing her glittery rainbow earrings and Bertie who was wearing a spotty bow tie. Scott opted for his Paw Patrol T-shirt and his new Paw Patrol trainers. Martin was wearing his top that said "go bananas if you want to party!" Felicity was wearing her green flowery dungarees and Mabel and Saffron had both decided to colour their fur with coloured chalks. Debbie and Rosie both wore tiara's and their Frozen dresses, Debbie was Anna while Rosie was Elsa. Coco wore her shawl that said "cats are cool". Terry wore a camouflage top, Martin made everyone laugh when he said he couldn't see his best friend Terry because he was wearing his camouflage top! George arrived next wearing a long stripey tie that he said was a present from the smartest giant in town. Everyone chuckled as "The Smartest Giant In Town" had been a favourite book this year and the animals had really enjoyed doing activities related to the book. Last to arrive was Henry who was wearing his colourful hip hop shirt. He gave both Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo a high five when he entered, reminding them not to leave him hanging which made Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo laugh.

Once everyone had arrived Mrs Bear sang "Can we make a circle, round just like a ball, it has no corners no corners there at all". The animals co-operated so well and made a circle in double quick time. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo were so impressed. Their first game was pass the parcel. Mrs Hippo had wrapped a parcel which everyone wanted to open. Mrs Hippo played some pop music and then stopped the music and whoever was holding the parcel had to leave the circle and get a sweet from a big bowl that Mrs Hippo had beside her. The game went well although Mrs Bear had to remind everyone to keep alert so they could pass the parcel as Simon had fallen asleep! Soon there was only Dana and Debbie left. Both of them went back to back and then the music stopped and Dana was the winner. Debbie was a little disappointed but she was happy for Dana, who was delighted to find animal stamper pens in the parcel. When Debbie went over to collect her sweet Mrs Hippo said "I am so proud of you, Debbie. I heard you say well done to Dana that was very kind". Debbie smiled happily as she remembered when she had started at nursery she had found it really difficult when she didn't win at games now it didn't matter if she didn't win as she still taking part.

The next game was musical statues. All the animals had been practising so it

was very difficult to get anyone out as no-one was moving. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo decided that they needed to make some funny faces. It was great fun! Mrs Hippo pulled a really funny face and Saffron started bleating tee hee hee which made Bertie, Felicity and Mabel laugh too as it was such a happy sound. Then Mrs Bear made herself banana earrings using real bananas !! which made Martin fall to the floor laughing. In the end George won as he was pretending to be a super hero who didn't move The next game was musical bumps which Mabel was delighted to win and squeaked happily when she received her prize. Then everyone played "duck,duck,goose". This was so popular with everyone cheering for each other, Even Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo got chosen and had to run quickly round the circle while everyone cheered their names.

After that everyone needed a bit of a rest and they played "whose got the honey pot?" using musical bells to be the honey pot. It was really tricky to pick up the bells without them tinkling. Henry was very good at this game because he had such good hearing and could identify in which direction the sound was travelling. Afterwards Gwen said she would love to play sleeping bunnies Simon asked if he could be sleeping sloths instead !The final game before the party food was "sandy animal" where everyone got to choose an animal friend to dance with. There was lots of wonderful dancing in the circle. Martin and Robert did huge leaps together while Bertie flew around Saffron so many times that she said she was getting dizzy! After everyone had the chance of dancing Mrs Bear asked everyone to wash their wings and paws for their party food and to join the conga which was being led by Mrs Hippo to the other side of the nursery. The animals were so very happy when they saw the decorated tables and the party food.

The animals loved chatting to each other while eating their yummy food. There were carrots cucumber and bread sticks, pineapple and strawberries, banana and cheese, raisins and party ring biscuits. During the year the animals had loved helping out with snack. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo had encouraged their independence skills everyday by providing opportunities to prepare snack. They even had a cafe one week with the animals being waiters and waitresses taking everyone's order. Saffron had loved helping and would often get the plates and cups out for Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo. George had loved filling out the snack board finding the snack picture to stick to the board and writing the quantity of how many items everyone could take. Debbie regularly helped by giving out snack names to friends who needed to come for snack, or at least have a drink to keep hydrated. Coco loved the word "hydrated" and even told her auntie Sue of the importance of drinking enough throughout the day. At snack time the animals also discovered things like Robert who didn't think he would like kiwi fruit when it was for snack. Mrs Bear encouraged him to try to take a tiny nibble to see if he would like it. Robert had surprised himself that he didn't just like it he loved it!

The animals had even made some food art which was extra special as you could eat it afterwards. This had been very popular and this prompted Felicity to make some party food art. She made a house with triangular windows with each triangle composed of three pieces of breadstick and a circular door. This

prompted the other animals to do some art , Scott made an alien with a party ring as a big eye which looked like a mythical creature. Mabel made a square robot. Coco made her name by using the raisins to make the letter c and banana discs for the letter o. George was very busy and made a train then re-arranged everything and made a dragon. Mrs Hippo complimented everyone on their creativity.

Mabel was the first animal to spot Mrs Chameleon enter the nursery and squeaked "hello" then everybody noticed and shouted out "hello" to which Mrs Chameleon replied "hello, my lovelies". Mrs Chameleon was always helping out Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo as she was a whizz with the computer and the smart board. Mrs Hippo had asked Mrs Chameleon to help her understand the technology in the nursery more as she wanted to be access all the benefits of technology. Mrs Hippo further explained that even big animals need help sometimes and it is good to ask for help if after trying a few times to do something you get a little stuck. So Mrs Hippo had contacted Mrs Chameleon an information technology expert to help her. Everyone really liked Mrs Chameleon as she was always kind, helpful and loved to sing. She was also an expert at explaining how to do things and soon Mrs Hippo was becoming very skilled using lots of different applications on the computer.

Mrs Hippo explained that next they were going to watch a very special movie that Mrs Chameleon had helped to produce. Everyone was very excited when they saw that lots of chairs had been placed in a semi -circle by Mrs Bear who invited everyone to find a chair as the movie would start in a few minutes. Mrs Bear then closed the blinds and Scott turned off the lights. "It's just like the cinema" said Dana happily. They had a count down for the movie 10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1,0 and Mrs Hippo pressed play. Suddenly wonderful music started playing "We're all in this together" and pictures of the animals started appearing on the screen.

First on the screen were pictures were of Saffron, Robert, Debbie, Rosie, George, Henry, Terry and Coco when they started at nursery nearly two years ago. They had looked so young. "Look I was so shy that is me hiding from the camera" said Saffron. "Look ! I'm so small. I'm so much taller now" said George. "Look! That's me playing with the paint. I remember! I made purple paint that day by mixing red and blue together" said Rosie excitedly. As the movie played on everyone got to see themselves. "That's me and Scott building a boat outside with the big blocks. I remember the boat was going over the sea to Ireland to visit my granny" said Dana. "O, that's me making slime, o, I loved the slime, it reminded me of a swamp", said Felicity. "O, I'd forgotten that's me and Rosie pretending to be Anna and Elsa singing "Let it go!" from Frozen on the small mini stage that Mrs Hippo made", said Debbie.

The music changed to "Can't stop the feeling" which coincided with pictures of the animals dancing. "That's me doing Highland Dancing!, to celebrate Robert Burns Day. I loved twirling around and around" said Mabel. "O, that's us doing ballet dancing. I remember Mrs Bear would put some music on the computer that we could dance to" said Gwen. Terry spotted himself doing press ups and

giving Mrs Bear tips on how to do one. "That's us with the musical instruments, I loved the coloured bells. I loved going to the music room", said Bertie. They also saw lots of pictures from the gym hall where every week it was exciting to walk through the school and past the funny minion hat on the alarm bell into the big hall. The movie brought back so many happy memories . The final bit of the movie was all the animals singing "Aroha is love and if you give it away, it'll come right back to you. It's just like a magic penny. Hold on tight and you won't get any but lend it, spend it, give it away it'll come right back to you". The animals had really enjoying singing it and were watching the screen while Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo wiped away happy tears as they remembered how much the animals had led their learning and grown in confidence and self-belief.

Soon it was time for the animals returning to animal nursery after the Summer holidays to be collected. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo had a chat with all the animal parents and carers. They said how much they were looking forward to seeing everyone in August and how delighted they were that they had chosen Animal Nursery. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo spent a few moments speaking to every animal and giving out lots of bear and hippo hugs. They then wished everyone a great Summer holiday.

Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo both wiped away a tear as they went over to where Mrs Chameleon had been chatting to all their nursery leavers. Mrs Chameleon noticed the tears and smiled as she knew how much every animal meant to the nursery staff. The nursery leavers then made a circle and were given their learning stories to look at which prompted so much lovely chatting about their favourite times in nursery. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo looked around the circle and couldn't be prouder of them all. They were all ready to take their next exciting step to school. A few minutes later all the parents and carers arrived. There were lots of happy tears and lots of bear and hippo hugs as everyone remembered the journey that each animal had made. Mrs Bear and Mrs Hippo both felt truly privileged to have been a part of that journey.