

The Wendy House Impington

February Newsletter 2018



An exciting year ahead

The year is well underway with lots of exciting activities going on in the Nursery. We have lots of plans for 2018 which centre around our outdoor learning opportunities for the children. Locally, we lead the way in outdoor learning and are looking forward to extending this further as the year unfolds. The great outdoors, our environment, wildlife, conservation and getting the children engaged and involved with nature are things that we feel passionate about and is definitely how we want the Nursery to develop further. We look forward to rolling out more outdoor learning opportunities for the children as the year progresses.



Love is in the air!



Love is definitely in the air at The Wendy House this month as we look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day. As has become tradition, all the children have a special love heart to take home and fill with all the things they love. This could be people, pets, toys, food, books, anything at all! These hearts are always very popular and help us to further develop the children through their favourite things. We look forward to seeing some of the things the children love.

Please write in the pink books!

Please, please, please can we ask that you take a little time to write a few words in your child's pink book. We cannot stress enough just how much this helps us with their development. The children absolutely love to show, and relate to, the things they have been doing outside of Nursery.

We don't need reams of words, just a few words or a sentence is enough for us to expand and incorporate into activities and group time.

A big thank you in advance!

Invoice request

Can we please ask you to check your invoice carefully each month and **ONLY** pay the amount due. Please make adjustments to voucher payments or standing orders if needed. Please do not round up payments, underpay or overpay.

The assignment of payments to each child (with the majority of parents paying by at least three or four different methods per child) means that this is a very lengthy and complex process which would be made much easier if the correct amount due is paid.

Your co-operation with this would be very much appreciated. Thank you in advance.



Around and about the Nursery



News from the Rooms ...

Bluebells



What a busy first month of the year our baby Bluebells have had!

After a restful Christmas break many of our Bluebells have come back demonstrating new skills, such as walking or crawling - it is always amazing just how much our babies grow when we haven't seen them for a week! The children are keen to practice their new skills, particularly in soft play where they have spent time climbing over the blocks and transporting balls from the ball pool to other places within the room, negotiating obstacles carefully.

As the babies enjoyed spending time with their families we ensured our activities allowed for all the children to spend time together as a group, sharing experiences with others.

Jonah's interest in music at home lent itself to an exciting group time where the children shared a basket of instruments which made for some varied and interesting sounds. The adults encouraged the children to manipulate the instruments in their hands and listen to their sounds as they played alongside their peers.

Following the Bluebells love of all things musical, we loved putting on the CD's and the children enjoyed developing control of their arms and legs as they joined in with actions to their favourite songs, experimenting with moving in a variety of ways.

Please can we ask that all clothing and shoes are named to prevent items being taken by parents in error.

We say a big Bluebell hello to Claudia, Finlay, Nina and Ralph. We are sure you will all have lots of fun in with us!

Poppies



We have been busy getting back into swing of Nursery life after our Christmas break.

We loved reading all about the presents our Poppies received for Christmas and what they have enjoyed doing over the festive period. As many of the children enjoyed seeing family we explored lots of family-themed activities including looking at the photos on our green sheets or in our pink books. This gave the children an opportunity to enjoy pictures and stories about themselves and their family. We continued this by looking at the different ways the children travelled to see their families. We learned lots of vehicle names and, using flashcards, we were able to learn the signs for them too. With the children's developing interest in vehicles, we thought we would try to see some outside of the Poppy room during outdoor play. We particularly enjoyed seeing tractors, planes and cars.

Benedict and Jacob have spent lots of time drawing at home and we continued their interest in drawing by exploring the marks made with chalk, looking at the different creations and pointing out the different coloured lines and marks. We extended this with water painting - always a Poppy favourite! They also used their hands to explore the sensory experience of the water by rubbing the brushes over their hands. We carried on the sensory experience to explore textures with a 'sticking' activity using lots of different materials. This proved to be a great problem-solving activity as the Poppies had to work out how to get the materials that were stuck to their hands onto the paper. As the children enjoyed practicing their pincer movement by picking up items between thumb and fingers we gave them the opportunity to develop this further using salt dough and cutters. They showed lots of excitement in changes in the dough as they manipulated it with their hands and cutters. As this demonstrated reactions to change and senses we then went to explore our lovely sensory area. All the children loved to explore the different lights, sounds and patterns.

After our many experiences exploring ways of mixing and making marks in damp sand, paste and paint we combined all of these skills to help make bread rolls. Whilst enjoying this activity the Poppies learned a new word, 'empty' from emptying the water into their bread mix. The children showed an understanding of how things change when something is added or taken away.

Can we please ask that the children's belongings are all named.

We would like to say hello to Sophia as she joins us in the Poppy room. We say farewell to Freya and Matilda who move downstairs to the Daisy room - have fun girls!

Daisies



After a relaxing Christmas break, the Daisies are back and have enjoyed talking about, and showing pictures of, their favourite Christmas activities and experiences. Evie T and Carys enjoyed playing with their own kitchen and ice-cream sets that Father Christmas had brought for them. We opened up our own kitchen and had fun making, and selling, our own ice-cream. The children spent lots of time playing as a group, acting out experiences and demonstrating great imagination to imitate everyday actions and make believe by pretend play.

The children have shown a keen interest in mathematical play, particularly looking at shapes, space and measures. They sorted the animal toys into different colour sets by picking them up with tweezers and matched shapes by finding everyday objects around the room that corresponded with them. They have also spent some time learning how to recognise familiar words such as their own names to help with finding their drawers and water bottle labels. We have been using alphabet flashcards during group times to help the children achieve this.

The children have also enjoyed texture and sensory play and had fun adding cocoa powder and ginger to salt dough. They then used a variety of tools to make marks and create lot of different shapes whilst commenting on the scent and colour of the dough.

The Daisies have really enjoyed listening to their CD's and singing along to 'Up, up, up' and 'Driving through the meadow', two of their favourites. They have all maintained lots of focus and attention, being able to repeat words and phrases from these familiar songs.

We say goodbye to Henry and Milo who both begin their Sunflower adventures - have fun in Wendy Wood boys! We say a huge hello to Freya and Tilly who are joining us for lots of Daisy fun.

Sunflowers



The Sunflowers have been very excited to be back at Nursery after the Christmas break. Even though Christmas is over, it has not stopped all our festive cheer which they have brought into the New Year!

We have been very busy since we've been back and spent lots of time talking about the family and friends that we have been with and the presents we received. Recalling these happy experiences from Christmas has been fantastic and meant lots of happy, engaged, group time sessions.

Zoey got a new space book and hanging planets and Alba got to show off her new space tops! This led to some fantastic space pictures being created, including an intergalactic space collage, using a range of different tools to sponge, paint and glue on materials. We also made some alien pictures using different shapes to cut out and also stick on eyes.

We also heard how Asher had been making dens so we created our own den to hide in. The children soon turned theirs into their home and created many different family-related storylines together, taking turns to play different roles.

We have also been quite focused on animals as Anna visited a wildlife park. We talked about our favourite animals and looked at pictures of them, including elephants, giraffes, cats and dogs. We looked at their similarities and differences and then pretended to be them, experimenting in the way that they move and, using books, talked about the natural environments they live in away from the animal parks.

Carrying on from our interest in animals, we opened up our own vet surgery to look after poorly animals. We spoke about what a vet would do and did so by checking temperatures and bandaging broken bones.

Athena and Zoey have been to London and James has been talking a lot about his last trip there which prompted lots of discussions about different types of transport. We drew the ones we saw and know, working on our pencil grip and control and also making marks in shaving foam with the small world cars and other vehicles.

This month we welcome Henry B and Milo to the Sunflower room.