

# The Wendy House Shingay

September Newsletter 2017



## *If you go down to the wood today ...*

Despite the grey weather, everyone had a fantastic time at our Teddy Bear's Picnic. The children all enjoyed fun bear games, a bear hunt and a delicious bear-themed tea! We love picnic day, especially as the whole Nursery comes together as one big family. Thank you to the whole team for their hard work and making the afternoon a big success.



Right: Our amazing sunflower is now almost 3 metres tall! The children are very proud of their growing achievements.

# News from the Rooms ...

## Bluebells



Our holiday 'Snap Shot' board is filled with Bluebell's having fun on holiday and days out with family and friends.

The children have visited zoos, farms, forests and beaches, enjoying the summer weather and our board reflects this as we continue their interests when they are back in Nursery. With adult support and encouragement, we have explored different media and messy play activities using animals, transport and recognisable everyday objects. Outside in the garden we all sat in the sand trying, building sandcastles, filling buckets and cups with sand, using spades, spoons and hands. We found crabs and shells hidden under the sand and collected them up and washed them in the water tray.

The children sat inside boxes laughing and smiling when hearing familiar songs, imitating adult actions waving and clapping - the boxes were our trains, cars and indoor planes. We've had tunnels and tents filled with different play things and books for the children to explore.

The books the Bluebells have looked at this month have included 'My First Farm', 'Busy Day', 'The Animal Train' and 'The Gruffalo'. They have all enjoyed helping to turn pages and following adults when painting and talking about the pictures.

We all enjoyed the Teddy Bear's Picnic, having tea in the garden along with friends, moving around the garden listening to stories and songs. With adult support all the Bluebells were able to join in with the games, laughing and squealing along with all the other age groups.

This month we say goodbye to Sophie who makes her way through the gate to the Poppy room. We offer a big welcome to Amelia, Albert and Violet who are joining us and hope they will have lots of fun.

## Poppies



The Poppies enjoyed a very busy August, jam-packed with activities inspired by all of the fun things they have been doing at home.

Edie, Alfred, Lara and Isabel enjoyed family holidays to Wales, Norfolk and the Lake District. We used their exciting stories and developed them into activities such as 'crabbing' in our handmade rock pool and decorated cardboard boxes as boats for the children to sit in and enjoy as imaginative play.

Amelia, Ella, Rory and Zoe have enjoyed lots of time outside and at the park, so we went on lots of walks around the Nursery grounds, searching for bugs, aeroplanes, fairies and dinosaurs! These searches were inspired in-part by Josephine enjoying a dinosaur hunt at Knebworth House and Zoe attending a fairy festival at Audely End.

As Darcey went to a kite festival, the children decorated their own kites, using paint, cotton reels and ribbon and we flew them in the garden before putting them on display.

The children who attended our Teddy Bear's Picnic had a fantastic afternoon of games, story-telling, bear hunts and craftwork, all followed by a delicious bear-themed tea! It was so lovely to see their excitement and interaction, not only with their Poppy room friends, but also all the other children in the Nursery.

This month we wave goodbye to Josephine as she starts her next adventure in the Daisy room. We welcome Sophie with open arms - we hope you'll love it!

## Daisies



Throughout August the Daisies have been eager to share their holiday experiences, describing their adventures and retelling their stories. We have enjoyed packing suitcases, choosing what we need to take away and why, in preparation for our holidays. The most popular items seeming to be 'BIG' buckets and spades!

It has been lovely to hear the children sharing memories with their peers, confidently and proudly showing photos from their pink books and describing the different places they have visited, ranging from camping with Granny and Grandpa to beach holidays and trips to the seaside. Using the children's growing interest in beaches, we created a small world scene for the children to explore sand, water, rocks and shells, discussing the various textures along with a large range of sea creatures. The children particularly enjoyed searching for crabs, with Aofie proudly shouting "I've caught a big one"! George also delighted in telling his friends that he saw real crabs at the beach.

As a group we have focused a lot on developing turn taking, with lots of fun games and activities, our favourite being hide and seek. The children took turns searching for their friends, and this was helped by the constant giggling! The children were encouraged to make their own decisions when choosing their hiding places, count to 10 prior to searching and describing where they could see people hiding.

Another activity we really enjoyed was our shape and colour relay where we asked the children to search and collect objects of similar colours and shapes and group them together. This sparked lots of interest in their immediate environment, using shape names and mathematical language to describe positions and locations, along with recalling various colours of everyday objects and making comparisons between items. The children's interest in shapes and colours continued as they used our display board to recall the activities and talk about the photographs that are displayed, showing how the activity progressed over the course of the week.

So, an exciting month for the Daisies! We look forward to more fun and games in September and to welcoming Josephine who joins us from the Poppy room. We also wave farewell to William and Eleanor who are going the Sunflower room.

## Sunflowers



The Sunflowers enjoyed a super busy August. We have been keeping a watchful eye over the allotment, collecting cucumbers for our tea and runner beans for Dawn to cook for our lunch. We have been measuring our Sunflower and it is now so tall we are waiting for a giant to come down!

August was a month for holidays for many of our Sunflowers. Alex, Louis, Luke, Thomas and George all visited the seaside, sharing tales of campsites and cold dips in the sea. Back in the room we engaged their imagination by setting up a tent and campfire where they could re-tell and recreate family memories.

Marielle, Melina, Hardy and Holly all had the experience of flying when they travelled to hotter climates to play in swimming pools and eat ice cream to cool down. We had excited discussions about what things were taken on the aeroplanes, items that were packed in trunkies and also items that had been forgotten. Lesley brought in a suitcase from home that the children had great joy filling up with items they might need to take on holiday.

As well as holidays, there have been a lot of fun-filled days out for the Sunflowers and their families. Erin had the pleasure of going on a fairy hunt at Audley End. This sparked so much fascination from all the Sunflowers, that we created our own fairy hunt around the Nursery grounds, excitedly looking for signs of fairies. Marta even came in wearing her own fairy dress!

We also enjoyed a Teddy Bear's Picnic with the rest of the children in the Nursery and it was great fun playing games with the other rooms. Venturing out on a 'Bear Hunt' captivated us all, hanging onto every single word. Lisa and Amanda said in the build up to finding the bear!

As our summer break comes to an end we say farewell to most of our Class of 2017: Isabelle, Hugo, Erin, Thomas, Lily, Hardy, William, Matilda, George, Sydney, Holly, Freya, Oliver and Frederick. We wish you lots of love and luck in your next adventure!

We welcome William and Eleanor to the Sunflower room and hope they both have lots of fun.