

The excitement is building



We LOVE Christmas! We know that it can be a busy, challenging time for parents, but for children it really is the most magical of times and we thoroughly embrace the season and all the excitement it brings. The sounds, colours, shapes, textures, along with the many sensory experiences, all help us to create some lovely activities that help with the children's development on every single level. It is also a lot of fun!



There is literally nothing better than seeing all the happy little faces and sensing the children's excitement. We balance the excitement of 'Santa' with the more meaningful elements of Christmas

so that the children start to understand that the festival isn't just about receiving presents.

We do hope that will all be happy with the exciting things that we have planned for the children.

Christmas Party - Wednesday 13th December

This is open to all Poppy, Daisy and Sunflower children. If your child does not usually attend Wednesday's, you are very welcome to bring them in at 9.15 am at no cost, all we ask is for a prompt collection at 12.15 pm. Festive Fancy Dress (optional) - child and Nursery-appropriate costumes only please.



Christmas Closure Dates

The Nursery will close at 6.15 pm on Friday 22nd December 2017.

New Year Opening 2018

The Nursery will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.45 am.

Visit the Grotto & enjoy a mince pie - from w/c 11 December



We are very excited about our Christmas Grotto being set up - it's amazing how hard those elves work when we're not looking!



Please do take a few minutes to go down to the soft play to have a peek (open from week commencing Monday 11th December) - just ask a member of staff and they will arrange for you to visit - please help yourself to a mince pie too. Also, we know just what an important role Grandparent's play in the children's lives, so if you have a Granny or Grandad who would like to take

a look at the Grotto, they are welcome to come in with you. Alternatively, if you contact the Nursery and arrange a convenient time, one of our staff can take them to sneak a peek!

YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IN DECEMBER



If you know the last day your child will be attending during December, please do let us know as soon as possible. This is not only to help us with staffing and catering requirements but also so that we can organise your child's Christmas goodie bag!

Please email: manager@thewendyhouse.org.uk or let a member of staff know when dropping off or collecting. Thank you!

SUITABLE CLOTHING PLEASE!

Please send your child with clothing suitable for the colder weather conditions. They need winter footwear and coats to keep them toasty and protected from the elements. We still have some children being brought in with no shoes or coats, which also means they cannot participate in the outdoor activities. We would appreciate your co-operation with this, thank you.

Images from November



If your child is ill

We would like to remind everyone of our **Sickness Policy** regarding poorly children. Please do not send your child into Nursery if they are poorly, particularly if they have had sickness and diarrhea. Our Policy states we cannot accept children into Nursery unless they have **48 HOURS** free of last vomiting or diarrhea.

We do our very best with infection control by being extra vigilant with cleanliness and sterilisation of the environment, but we do need parents to work with us to avoid the spread of bugs and infections. Sick children being brought into Nursery is not only upsetting for the child concerned but can have a damaging impact on the other children, as well as our staff team. With Christmas just around the corner, we want to keep everyone as fit and well as possible. We thank you in advance for your consideration and co-operation with this.



News from the Rooms ...

Bluebells



We had lots of fun in the Bluebell room during November. The children especially enjoyed getting involved in activities to celebrate Bonfire Night. Jacob and Monty went to firework displays so we made our own bright and vibrant pictures using a cardboard tube with slits cut at the end. Our Bluebells practised using this in a variety of ways to make random marks and also enjoyed smearing their hands in the paint afterwards, exploring the texture and getting nice and messy!

William went for woodland walks so we got the *Gruffalo* soft toys and puppets out and the children were encouraged to interact with each other whilst playing with these. Some of them also sat nicely while we looked through the *Gruffalo* story and would laugh when the *Gruffalo* appeared. This encouraged the children to copy actions and repeat simple sounds.

Jacob has enjoyed swimming, splashing in the water and having lots of fun so we had water messy play out. The children would clap their hands in the water and watch as drops of water flew off them and then reach out and touch the drops of water. They also enjoyed the water play when we combined sea creatures as Ivy had visited the beach and we wanted to incorporate this into the activity too. The babies worked out that if they squeezed some of the sea creatures water sprayed out of them. They found this very exciting, smiling and making lots of vocal sounds.

William helped his Mum make their Christmas cake and had a go at stirring the mixture so we got out the metal pots and pans with the wooden spoons and encouraged everyone to practise a stirring movement. This soon turned into making lots of noise banging the wooden spoons on the pans very loudly with lots of cheeky smiles!

It was Iola's first Birthday and she got lots of unicorn gifts so we made our own sparkly, glittery unicorns. The children enjoyed using different materials and textures to create these.

Ivy went to Windsor Castle and was fascinated by the beautiful dolls house she saw there. We got our dolls house out and the children spent time picking up the different people and the furniture and moving them around. They also enjoyed holding an item in each hand and banging them together to make lots of noise!

Poppies



The month of November started off with a bang as the Poppies enjoyed celebrating Bonfire Night. Alfred, Ella, Robyn, Rory and Zoe all enjoyed watching firework displays with their families. Our Poppies all created a firework picture using shiny paint and glitter. We spoke about the different colours and used vocal sounds such as "pop", "bang", "whizz" and "wow". We also danced to music, where the children moved their whole bodies by stretching and spinning like fireworks and jumping up and down like rockets. The children also enjoyed a delicious bonfire tea of soup and hotdogs!

We have absolutely loved reading some of the children's favourite stories that they have brought in to share with us. Ella's story was 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. The children listened intently, joining in with the 'roaring' sounds of the tiger. We then made paper plate tiger face masks using orange and black paint. Emily shared her story 'Gruffalo Growl' and showed her friends how to press the button to listen to the *Gruffalo* sounds - great fun! Zoe's story from home was 'Puppy Makes Mischief', a lovely story which all of the children listened to with giggles and smiles.

Robyn got some new wellies and went for a family walk and Sophie also went for a walk in the rain and loved splashing in puddles. As we had a grey raining morning we decided to wrap up in our all-in-one suits and the children had a fantastic time splashing in the puddles, saying "splish, splash" as they splashed about. They all really enjoyed the sensory experience of catching the rain in their hands and also letting it fall onto their faces.

Myah-Jasmine enjoyed an amazing holiday this month when she travelled to Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Australia, where she met up with lots of family and friends. With this excitement we did lots of pretend play, like travelling on an aeroplane and going on boat journeys. The children did lots of filling and emptying activities in the sand tray and read lots of stories about holidays.

Rory celebrated his second Birthday and Oliver and Zoe went to Birthday parties so we had some balloon play, balloon painting and danced to music, playing musical statues and musical bumps!

This month we say goodbye to Ella and Rory as they start their new adventures in the Daisy room!

Daisies



The month of November started with a big bang with lots of excitement building up to Bonfire Night. The Daisies had lots of fun creating their own pipette firework pictures, exploring how colours can be changed when mixed and making their very own indoor bonfire! The highlight was having our special bonfire tea whilst sat around our own 'fire'. We enjoyed eating the yummy food, all with a firework twist. Josephine particularly enjoyed the fruit rockets, saying "It's in the sky" as she zoomed her rocket above her head.

Our Daisies have been very eager to share their experiences of going shopping, with Amelie and Zoe also exploring a craft fair. The children have enjoyed creating their own shopping lists, "Look, bananas", said Darcey. The children were then encouraged to explore colours, decorating and colouring in the shopping lists. Once our lists were complete we then opened our own role-play shop where we could purchase items from our lists, "Here's tea, money please", said Louis.

We had some torches out and our Daisies have shown a lot of interest in them and how they work, enjoying switching them on and off. We had lots of fun using them in the soft play room when we made the room as dark as possible and then used the torches to find our friends in games of hide and seek. This prompted lots of excited chatter, with the children incorporating words such as, "finding", "darker", "lighter" and "hiding", into their conversations.

We have had lots of fun listening to some new stories within the room. One of our new favourites is called 'Vet'. It is all about helping and making animals feel better. Beatrix enjoyed telling her friends about taking her dog, Ruffles, to the vet, even telling the vet her pet had a bad back and needed medicine. As a result of this, we had fun role-playing in our own vets surgery and using the stethoscope to listen to the Nursery toy animals 'hearts'. We had lots of conditions diagnosed along the way, "It's got a poorly leg, got to make it better", said George H.

We have also listened intently to a book about our hands and how we can use them kindly to help us do things for ourselves and our family and friends. We have been learning about handshakes, as the Daisies were unsure what they were. Our Daisies now enjoy hand-shaking whenever they complete a task, such as lining up for the garden!

This month we are welcoming Ella, Joshua and Rory to the Daisy room, just in time to enjoy all the Christmas festivities!

Sunflowers



The month of November for the Sunflower's was full to the brim with vibrant colours and time to reflect.

We started the month with a loud bang and a whiz! Bonfire Night filled our room with happy conversations when the children remembered their times with family, watching lights fill the sky and hearing all the weird and wonderful noises from fireworks. Incorporating this into the Sunflower room, we created artwork by mixing paint colours using a ball in a tray to rock from side-to-side, making the ball roll over the paper. The children were amazed at how the colours would blend into one another, Etta said "That colour was red, now it's pink".

We all took time to think about those that have fought for our future. The Sunflower's created memorable Poppies to display proudly and participated in some quiet time to think about others and what they do for us. William and Thomas wanted to be soldiers, so they could protect their friends, dressing in outfits and 'patrolling' the Nursery "Making sure it is safe", Thomas would repeat.

The Sunflowers took part in a measuring activity, following on from an activity Harrison has been doing at home. Harrison and his Mummy have been seeing how much he has been growing, so Lauren made a height chart so that we could all be measured against and see who was the tallest and shortest. Expanding on this, the Sunflowers went off and began to measure the height of toys they could find and then we worked as a group to construct towers to see how high we could go, "Let's touch the roof", said Quinn.

Ben visited Fowlmere Bird Reserve with his family. He told us all about where the birds live in the cold winter months and how they must use lots of different materials to make warm and cosy nests. We listened to the story "The Bluebirds Nest" and all loved hearing how the animals worked together to help the little bluebird build his nest ready for winter. After talking about all the different types of birds that live in nests, we then went on to create our own handprint birds and helped build their nests using a range of different media and materials.

We are now all super-excited about December and the fun things we will be doing!