

The Wendy House Shingay



November Newsletter 2018



We would like to thank George and Angus' parents for donating pumpkins and apples that the children used to decorate the Nursery during harvest and Halloween. The children had great fun carving and playing with the gooey seeds!

Keeping warm during winter!



We have recently purchased new all-in-one waterproof suits to ensure the children can stay dry whilst enjoying the outdoor space. To assist us, and following the recent chilly weather, please can we again ask that you ensure that the children have appropriate clothing, coats and shoes and that bags are fully stocked with hats and gloves. The colder weather offers some great opportunities for the children to learn and develop and it would be a shame for children to miss out through not having suitable clothing to keep them warm under their waterproofs.

Can you also ensure your child has slippers for indoors use.

Thank you!



Telephone calls

Can we please remind you that we do not answer the telephone between 12.30-2pm. Should you wish to speak with a member of staff urgently, please leave a message and we will get back to you immediately.

Thank you!

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Party: Wednesday 19th December.
Party food for lunch, a visit to the grotto and lots of festive fun and games!

This is open to all Poppies, Daisies and Sunflowers. If your child does not attend on Wednesdays there will be no charge, we just ask that you drop off at 9.15 am and collect at 12.15 pm.

Christmas closure: Friday 21st December, 6.15 pm.

New Year opening: Wednesday 2nd January, 7.45 am.



With the children spending more time than ever outside, please can you be mindful of your speed when driving within the Nursery grounds.

Thank you!

A special visit from Sherlock!

We had a very special guest during October when Michelle brought in her puppy, Sherlock, The English Bulldog, to meet all the children.

The Bluebells watched as he explored, feeling his coat as he came close. The Poppies adored his energy and offered him toys to play with so he could join in with them. The Daisies learnt how to give him space and be gentle, as he wanted all their attention! Sherlock then ventured outside with the Sunflowers where they were all eagerly waiting to show him the cabin and the maze. Off they all went on a nice long walk, playing with the long grass and learning how to care for animals, as they would all take turns encouraging Sherlock to follow them.

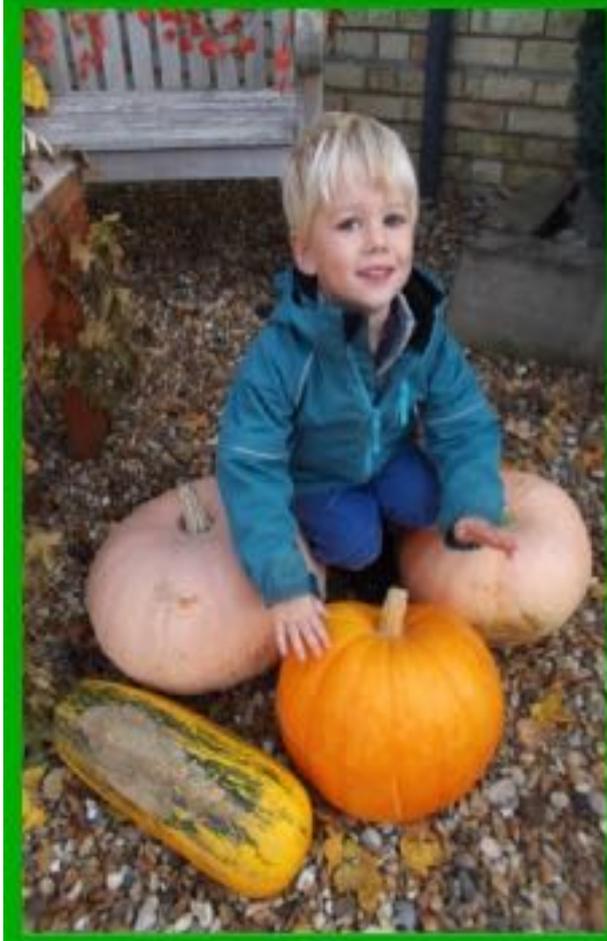


The Wendy House Conservation activities

Hedgehog Awareness...



Fun and games inside and out!





Spooktacular Halloween Fun, inside and out!









News from the Rooms...

Bluebells

October started with the Bluebells keen to make lots of noise - whether using musical instruments, banging Lego bricks or hitting pots and pans with spoons. The children laughed and giggled as they created their own orchestra, playing away to familiar songs and rhymes. The children even took the bricks to the water tray and began splashing water around, encouraging their peers to join in the splashing frenzy, again with lots of laughter and excited smiles, but some very wet children!

Many of the Bluebells had been enjoying warm autumn walks away from Nursery so we headed out to find leaves that had fallen from the trees to take back to our room for closer inspection. The children pulled them apart to reveal the stems and the feel of each individual leaf, enjoying the crunching and crumbling sensation and check their hands as the leaves disappeared. We also added leaves to our small world farmyard to give it a traditional autumn look as the children explored the animals and their habitats.

Conservation Cabin

'World Animal Day' saw the Bluebells focus on Edward's cuddly owl that he brought in from home. Alongside lots of owl books, the Bluebells listened to Lisa as she made owl sounds and flew owls across the room. We also went for a walk through the nature maze to see if we could find any birds or owls flying around or nesting in the trees.

October was also 'Hedgehog Awareness Month' and Lisa's Mum kindly made some fluffy hedgehogs for the Bluebells to play with and cuddle up to. We created small hibernation dens for each hedgehog and the children enjoyed placing their hands in the box to feel the warm hedgehogs along with long grass and leaves to keep them warm and provide a snuggly home for the winter months.

Halloween

The month ended with the Bluebells enjoying lots of spooky fun for Halloween. Carving pumpkins, creating funny faces with chalk on black card, and messy play with the pumpkin flesh and seeds were particular favourites. The Bluebells loved the sensory experiences on offer, moving the seeds and pumpkin through their hands and pulling at the stringy consistency as they put their hands inside the hollow pumpkins.

The children also enjoyed a spider hunt in the messy tray and of course they all loved chasing the balloons around the room, kicking and hitting them in the air, watching them move and laughing as they bumped them and their friends!

We offer a warm welcome to Oliver and Freddie who have joined us - we hope you have lots of fun. We also say goodbye to Lily as she moves through the gate into the Poppy room - we will miss your cheery personality Lily!

Poppies

The Poppies danced their way into the month of October with musical flare, imitating the adult's movement to music by clapping their hands, stamping their feet and moving to the beat! Spencer enjoyed the actions as he danced so we saw this as the perfect opportunity to learn the actions to our favourite Nursery Rhymes, starting with 'The Wheels on the Bus'. This was very popular as the children stayed very focused as they copied the actions. We used the blocks from soft play to create individual buses for the children with Julian becoming extremely animated as he bounced up and down, whilst driving!

In keeping with the musical theme the Poppies created their own shakers using recycled bottles, cans and tubes. We selected different objects to put inside the shakers and listened to the sounds they made before finally settling for rice as it sounded like the rain hitting the roof of the conservation cabin.

Callie and George's family trip to see the dinosaurs made a gigantic impression on our Poppies, so we created an interactive small world scene for the Poppies to explore different movements and sounds as they moved the dinosaurs over the landscape. The Poppies also used soft play to move like dinosaurs, stomping with heavy feet and joining in with the adults as they roared and jumped.

Conservation Cabin

'World Animal Day' – The Poppies became fully immersed in all the lovely cuddly animals that the children brought in to share. Spencer learnt the names to repeat throughout the day as we looked at different animal books. The Poppies displayed fantastic sharing by allowing everyone to cuddle their soft toys. We took our animals to the cabin and read stories about local wildlife such as squirrels, badgers, birds and rabbits and hoped to get a glimpse of a few. Sadly the animals were resting, but we did spot a bird's nest in a tree and a rabbit hole when walking through the nature maze, which caused much excitement.

'Hedgehog Awareness Month' – After reading several stories about hedgehogs, the children learned that hedgehogs need a soft place to sleep so off we went on a search and find mission around our nature maze to see if there was a suitable spot for a hedgehog to sleep. We also collected long grass and dry leaves to put inside our hedgehogs homes, hoping some will take up residency over the winter. When looking at the stories we spoke about the hedgehog's appearance and took the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor art project, using sticks and grass to create a spiky masterpiece!

Halloween

October came to an end with the Poppies enjoying lots of spooky activities for Halloween. The children created footprint mummies and they giggled as the paintbrush tickled their toes, with Callie very keen to help paint her friends feet! Our favourite activities were very messy; firstly a spooky, slimy jelly where the children searched for spiders and other creepy crawlies and pumpkin carving. The Poppies happily pulled at the inside of the pumpkin, moving the cold gooey seeds between their hands and passing to others.

We finished the day with a spooktacular party, playing 'Pin the eyes on the pumpkin' and dancing to music, all followed by a lovely tea of spider sandwiches, banana ghosts, a skeleton vegetable platter and monster brownies, yum!

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to Lily who joins us this month – we hope you are looking forward to all the fun and games!

Daisies

The Daisies found inspiration from the sky during October, with aeroplanes and the weather taking centre stage. We started by designing our own paper aeroplanes and sending them for take off in the garden. The children used positional language to describe where they had landed with Edie shouting, "It's up high" and Ella telling her peers "My plane landed low". Designing the aeroplanes resulted in the Daisies mixing colours to create their own perfect shade to decorate their aeroplanes and predicting what colour we'd make when we mix two colours together.

Moving on to the weather, October was great as it offered the Daisies plenty of talking points. The rain created the most excitement as the children donned their wellington boots and jumped up and down in puddles. The Daisies wandered around looking for the biggest puddles, discussing how to make the 'Biggest and best" splashes with Lucia saying, "Lets stomp" but Robyn happily brought everyone's attention to the muddiest puddles as she shouted across to her friends. This gave the Daisies the perfect mixture to make and bake mud pies to serve to each other. We have also enjoyed the warm autumn sunshine, making the most of the temperature as we picked pears from the pear tree and sat in the sun telling stories to one another. Finally, towards the end of the month we were treated to the first frosty morning, which provided much excitement, as we found several frozen spider's webs in the garden.

Conservation Cabin

During 'World Animal Day' the Daisies sat together sharing tales of their favourite animals. This was a great activity for encouraging the group to not only share experiences, but to build their confidence when speaking aloud in a group situation and listening to others. Emily shouted "Dog dog", expressing her keenness to tell everyone that dogs are her favourite. Amanda then shared with the children how important it is to look after a dog, as they need food, water, exercise and someone to play with them. We read lots of animal-themed stories, discussing each at length as the children compared the different sizes, colours and homes they have.

October was also 'Hedgehog Awareness Month' and the Daisies became completely absorbed by the little creatures as they created a 'hedgehog street' in the nature maze. The children built a series of homes from grass, leaves and sticks, and ensured there was a safe and clear path for the our spiky friends to navigate between them. Amanda set up the night vision cameras close by to see if we could capture any hedgehogs moving into their new homes - we can't wait to look through the videos! Through this activity the Daisies were also introduced to hibernation, using stories such as 'The Bear Snores on' they were able to envisage what hedgehogs do every autumn to keep them warm, dry and snuggled up for the cold winter months.

Halloween

Finally, the month came to an end with the Daisies going all out for Halloween! We enjoyed a range of different activities, from Frankenstein footprints to flying broomsticks like "Winnie the Witch", to pumpkin carving and playing with the sticky, gooey mixture and seeds. Our favourite part of the day was the Halloween Party where we enjoyed lots of spooky games such as 'Pin the wings on the bat', pumpkin rolling and hide and seek pumpkins - all followed up with lots of delicious treats for tea.

The Daisies would like to wish Edie lots of luck as she moves through to the Sunflower room – we hope you have lots of fun in Wendy Wood!

Sunflowers

October for the Sunflowers brought lots of role-play as the children went party crazy having celebrated both Rhys and Quinn's birthdays. The children spoke about the gifts they took to the parties, giving the opportunity to share how it made each person feel, with the children sharing some lovely thoughts on making others happy. Of course the room carried out party theme games and listened to the children's favourite songs, as we danced, sang and shared fun ideas.

Sebastian came to Nursery with a brand new haircut for his first day in the Sunflower room, which led to the children wanting to create a hair salon in the room so they could style each other's hair "Just like Sebastian's"! We also set up a sensory area for the children to use play dough people with varying hairstyles. The children rolled the different coloured dough into long and short strands, as well as using scissors to snip it shorter if needed, before moulding it into shape to form the perfect styles.

Jack visited London with his dad, "The capital city" Harrison informed everyone. The Sunflowers then looked at different places to notice the differences between cities, towns and villages, asking them to name the ones they know and where they live. Learning about the features of each encouraged the children to visualise their own place to create. The children worked together to set up a small world scene that included all their ideas with Darcey insisting, "We need a park", and Amelie adding, "We need lots of shops"!

Conservation Days

'*World Animal Day*' – The Sunflowers became overrun with a huge selection of animals to celebrate. Annika was proud to bring her favourite monkey in from home that she started making monkey sounds and showing everyone how to move a like a monkey. The Sunflowers learnt where all their animals live in their natural environment and what they need to survive in the world, demonstrating an ever-increasing understanding of caring for others and respect for other living things.

October was also '*Hedgehog Awareness Month*' with the children learning all about the little animals through information books read to the children. The Sunflowers were then able to go out into our fields and create support for the hedgehogs, with food and shelter. After the Sunflowers had create a home for the hedgehogs to hibernate, they thought it would be a great idea to create their own hibernation den in the room where they could get cosy, fed and watered but we weren't as sleepy as our hedgehog friends!

This time of year, it is important that all wildlife are cared for and offered food and water, just like the hot weather we have experienced. The Sunflowers made it their mission to continually check all our bird feeders had food in and placed trays of water around the nature maze to keep all creatures hydrated. We are hoping to catch clips of this on our night vision cameras.

Halloween

The Sunflower room was awash with witches, cats and pumpkins as we saw out the month in spooktacular style. The children took part in a variety of craft activities such as ghost handprints, apple printing, and stain glass pumpkins to decorate the room.

We also enjoyed carving funny faces on pumpkins and create potions from the flesh and seeds. '*Winnie the Witch*' is always a firm favourite amongst the children, but Halloween really sparks the children's fantastic imaginations when discussing our favourite witch and her cat, Wilbur.

We rounded off the day with games such as 'Pumpkin golf', a ghost-themed coconut shy and plenty of dancing – all finished off with a spooky tea of spider sandwiches, banana ghosts, vegetable baton skeletons and monster brownies, it was great fun and very tasty!

We welcome Edie to the Sunflower room this month – we hope you have lots of fun with us and don't forget your wellington boots for Wendy Wood!