

# The Wendy House Shingay

April Newsletter 2018



## IMPORTANT STAFF CHANGES

Dear Parents & Carers

We would like to advise you of some important staff changes that will be taking effect this month.

### **Kerry - Operations Manager**

We are delighted to announce that Kerry has been appointed as Operations Manager. Kerry lives our ethos and this new position will mean that she will work closer with us as we look to further improve our Nurseries and develop our staff teams. Part of her remit will include overseeing both of our settings, however, she will still be predominately based at Shingay so you will still see her around the Nursery. Her role will focus on upholding our high standards as well as supporting both Nursery Managers. She will, of course, remain fully connected to all of the children in the Nursery, ensuring they receive the very best of care.

### **Michelle - Nursery Manager**

As Kerry now becomes Operations Manager, Michelle has been promoted from Deputy to Nursery Manager, a perfect successor as her energy and enthusiasm are exactly what is needed to head a team. Michelle will manage in the same vein as Kerry and will continue to be a visual presence for children and parents. She has, in fact, been working in Kerry's role since Christmas as she has been undertaking management training, therefore her appointment should be seamless.

### **Lisa - Deputy Manager**

With Michelle's appointment as Nursery Manager, Lisa, has been promoted to Deputy Manager. Lisa's passion and enthusiasm, as well as her positive relationships with the staff team, will make her promotion a very positive addition to the Nursery. She will still be based in the Bluebell room and her key children will remain, but will have greater input in the day-to-day running of the Nursery, and will be an additional support to Michelle.

### **Lauren - Room Leader**

Lauren has been appointed as Room Leader of the Sunflower Room, taking over Michelle's role. Lauren is an experienced Level 3 Practitioner and has been working closely with Michelle since joining The Wendy House two years ago. Her knowledge and skills in early years education make her the natural successor to lead the room. Michelle will still be very much involved with the Sunflowers, particularly in regard to this year's Parent's Evenings and overseeing their transition from Nursery to school.

Michelle takes on the email: [manager@thewendyhouse.org.uk](mailto:manager@thewendyhouse.org.uk). Please now contact Michelle for all enquiries regarding sessions and all day-to-day child-related queries. Kerry and Michelle will share an office and Kerry will still have access to the manager@ email and have sight of all Nursery emails. Her personal email address will now be: [operations@thewendyhouse.org.uk](mailto:operations@thewendyhouse.org.uk)

All fees and Early Years Funding queries should still be sent to us at: [enquiries@thewendyhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thewendyhouse.org.uk)

These appointments will enable us to not only dedicate more time to our in-house training programmes and also demonstrates our commitment to invest in our staff team, ensuring we are constantly striving to improve our provision. With the financial constraints imposed by the Early Years Funding we believe this further shows how we will go above and beyond to offer the children the very best opportunities and remain the area's leading day care provider.

If you have any questions or queries, as always, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Warmest wishes**

**Matt & Jacquie**



## Somewhere over the rainbow!

We would like to thank Zoe's Mummy, Amy, who took this amazing photo. The children enjoyed trying to guess where the pot of gold was and who might get it!



## Sunflowers

The month of March got off to a very cold start but that didn't stop us from having lots of fun though and we couldn't wait to rush outside after breakfast to play in the snow! Etta and Rhys had great fun using sticks to draw pictures in the snow. Lilia drew a "Television for the birds to watch" and Rhys drew Olaf from Frozen. Alexander and William decided the pirate ship needed a 'Spring Clean' and used their sticks as dusters to brush all the snow off the rails.

Lilia found an icicle hanging on the gate on her way into Nursery and we looked at it during group time and talked about how it was made and observed the patterns within the ice. We decided to do a little experiment and left the icicle next to the radiator to see what happened, we were sad to see that it had melted but spoke about how that happened. We then went on an icicle hunt to see if we could find some more. We found some hanging from the shed roof in the garden, they were all different sizes and very pretty. We then created our own artwork based on the icicles using watered down paint and we watched it slowly run down the page.

We joined in the celebrations for Holi - the Hindu Festival of Colours. We each took it in turns to throw powder paint in the snow to create pretty patterns. It was fun especially when the wind blew and we got covered in paint too!

Many of the Sunflower's gave their Mummies flowers on Mother's Day. We went on a walk around the grounds in search of some flowers. We found some pretty daffodils in Wendy Woods and we all loved looking at the bright colours. We went on a 'colour hunt' around the Nursery to see how many different green and yellow things we could find and Louis noticed that the yellow things were not all the same yellow. His observation led us to looking at paint charts to look for different shades of colour.

Alexander and Eleanor have been on walks with their families and saw feathers which encouraged us to read the story 'Dilly Duck' together in which she loses her feathers. We spoke about all the different places we might find feathers and went on a walk around the grounds to see if we were right. We were pleased to find a variety of different shape, colour and sized feathers on the trail to Wendy Wood. Annabel said that the feathers looked like brushes so we set up a craft activity and used our feathers to create pictures.

***The month of April sees Jack and Rohan become Sunflower's and we can't wait to welcome them into the room. Sadly we say goodbye and good luck to Lilia - we wish you lots of love and luck Lilia and are excited about your future adventures.***

## Daisies

March began with lots of cold weather and snow. When being outside in the snow the Daisies have been interested in the texture and the sound the snow makes when we step on it. In the garden we found ice and icicles for us to look at, we brought them inside to see what happens when they get warm and what they feel like. Lots of the Daisies went on walks in the snow with their families and made snowmen, unfortunately there wasn't enough snow at Nursery to make our own snowmen so we have been doing snowmen printing with paint and sponges. Over the white weekend the Daisies saw lots of animals out and about. Amanda and Annie found a book called 'Snow friends' to look into animal tracks and what marks they leave in the snow.

Joshua enjoyed seeing a fire engine with his family so we created a fire engine role-play area where the children put on hats and coats pretending to put out fires with the hoses in the garden. We have also been using the boxes in the garden to make a fire engine making lots of noise pretending it is driving along!

Lara shared her tale of going to the library with her Grandparents and seeing books so we set up our own Daisy room 'Library'. The children then acted out the role of a Librarian, handing out books to friends and taking turns to read them to each other. One of their favourite books to read all together is 'Peppa Pig went swimming', joining in with all the "oinks" that Daddy pig makes.

Zoe has shown a keen interest in kitchen role-play with vegetables at home. We decided to do some kitchen role-play at Nursery using the pots and pans in the kitchen. We had lots of discussions about vegetables so we got some real ones from Dawn and talked about the different sizes, colours and names of them. We talked about the different weights of the vegetables and did some exploring of heavy and light objects with the big scales. Household chores seemed popular with many of the children this month and they have been modelling this in the room. Beatrix helped her Mummy hang the washing up so in the dressing up corner we got a clothes horse out, so Beatrix could show her friends how she helped her Mummy.

Amelie has been very excited about the new bird feeder she got at home and as we have a bird feeder at Nursery we decided to go on a nature walk to fill up the feeder. We even made our own bird feeders for Nursery and used the food as messy play to make some bird food to put in the feeders.

Rory and Alfred enjoyed going to Thriplow Daffodil Festival. This was a big talking point for the children and prompted lots of different activities. The children have been counting how many daffodils there are in a bunch. Daffodil painting was very popular with the children, using different materials to make marks on what they think the flowers look like. At the festival there were lots of tractors, so we have been doing some painting with our toy tractors to see the marks they leave behind when we move them.

With Easter here we have been doing lots of different activities centred on the Easter theme. We have been making lots of Easter cards and colourful handprint rabbits. The children have been playing chick snap games and running around trying to catch the feathers while playing the feather game.

***The month of April sees us say goodbye to Rohan and Jack and hello to Sophie, we are sure they will have lots of fun.***

## Poppies

March began with lots of unexpected cold weather and snow. The Poppies loved watching through the windows as the snow fell and created snow pictures using a snowflake sponge and paint. As it was too cold for us to enjoy the garden, we collected snow and put it into a tray inside. The children enjoyed watching it melt in their hands.

For World Book Day all of the children brought in their favourite books from home to look at with their friends. Each child was very excited when their book was chosen to be read and they all sat beautifully to listen, helping to turn the pages and joining in with lots of vocal sounds and words. We were very impressed with how the children were keen to share their books proudly.

Myah-Jasmine, Robyn, Sophie, Lola and Ivy have all loved music, dance, instruments and singing at home. This led us to create our 'Poppy room band' where we collected pots, pans and wooden spoons from Nursery treasure baskets and also created our own shakers using empty bottles filled with pasta and rice. The children had a fantastic time banging on the pans and shaking the bottles, making as much noise as possible along with some lovely joining in of vocalisations and actions to much loved nursery rhymes.

Ivy went on a trip to Thetford forest, collecting pine cones, meeting lots of dogs and finding a big Gruffalo hiding in the woods! We chose The Gruffalo as our 'book of the week' and the Poppies loved listening to the story, playing with the Gruffalo puppets, decorating paper plate snakes and creating The Gruffalo characters using playdoh.

William, Robyn, Ivy, Albert and Sophie all went to soft play with their families and continued their love for this at Nursery. We all ventured down to the soft play room where we built towers, dens, obstacle courses and slides. The children had a brilliant time playing alongside each other and solving problems of how to move large soft blocks to where they would be able to climb and jump into the ball pit! Albert also started football lessons this month and the Poppies loved kicking balls into goals and around cones and passing balls to their friends. Lots of skill and coordination developing!

Oliver went on holiday to China and when he returned we had lots of fun finger painting blossom trees and making marks in shaving foam with toy aeroplanes.

Charlie had his haircut and some of the children have visited the dentist and doctors. This led onto us learning about people who help us. We read stories, played with the hand puppets, dressed up and enjoyed lots of pretend play. These included taking care of our friends with the doctors set, putting out fires in the garden, looking after poorly pets at our 'vets' and brushing, washing and drying hair at our 'hairdressers'.

***In April we say goodbye to Sophie as she ventures into the Daisy room!***

## Bluebells

This month many of the Bluebells have enjoyed the winter weather going on walks in forests and visiting country parks where they have been watching ducks, birds and farm animals. They have also enjoyed playing on swings in their local parks.

Cora, Ava, George and Monty have enjoyed making lots of different sounds when playing with the wooden cars and trains, getting excited when Catelyn pushed the trains toward them. Monty enjoyed crawling around the room pushing the ICT train, which made lots of different noises.

The children sat together looking at the books they brought in for World Book Day. Violet showed us her book 'That's not my Unicorn' and everyone used their hands and fingers to touch and feel the colourful textures. Jack had a noisy transport book with buttons to push and as the children enjoyed the noises we then played with our new inset boards which made lots of different sounds to match the pictures. Sophia, Callie, Amilia and George liked the animal boards, listening and smiling every time they heard the duck quack or the chick cluck. Spencer liked the inset board with trucks and emergency vehicles, listening to sirens when lifting the pieces up.

Callie and George also brought their book in called 'Spot bakes a cake'. The Bluebells joined in as a group to lift the flaps up to reveal hidden pictures of the ingredients to make Daddy a chocolate birthday cake. The children practised their clapping when a flap was lifted to show the picture.

We enjoyed hearing about Sophia dressing up as a duck and enjoying playing with shiny pebbles in the duck pond and this encouraged us to get the small pool out, filling it with bubbles and ducks. Julian and Amilia decided they wanted to crawl and sit in the pool dabbling and smearing the suds around them just like their baths at home!

Violet has been on a musical weekend away meeting lots of her favourite Cbeebies characters. Some of our children have continued to practise walking independently by using our ICT activity walkers, travelling up and down the room becoming more confident and enjoying the music as they move. When hearing music, Jacob and Violet move around waving arms and bending their knees, smiling and laughing along with Lisa.

Spencer, Jacob and Monty enjoyed playing with the diggers in the sand making marks and sounds when pushing the diggers around. Lily loved playing with the sand and when Catelyn poured the sand over her hands she made lots of sounds and smiled when trying to catch the grains.

Cora, Sophia, Jack and Lily explored soft play crawling, climbing and sitting in the ball pool and on the soft blocks. Cora and Ava were happy to help Lisa fill the ball pool back up with the dropped balls standing and throwing them back in where as Sophia, Jack, Violet, Jacob and Spencer much preferred to throw them out! Lily did lots of laughing and waving when the balls landed near her.

***We welcome Angus to the Bluebell room this month and are sure he will love all the fun things we have planned.***