

The Wendy House Impington

June Newsletter 2018



Graduation party – date for your diary

The Sunflower's Graduation Party this year will be held on **Thursday 19th July from 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**. Once again we will have the lovely animals from Ark Farm, which will include a pony for the children to ride.

The party is a celebration for the children who are leaving us to go to school, but all the Sunflowers are invited. If you have a Sunflower who doesn't usually attend on Wednesdays we would love them to come along and enjoy the fun. There is no charge for those that don't attend Wednesdays; all we ask is that you collect promptly. Please advise us as soon as you can if your child is able to come along so that we can arrange catering and staffing for the day. *All leaver's parents will be notified of Parent's Evening in due course.*

Digital Safety

Children now have access to a huge range of technology that, when used moderately and safely, can have a positive impact on their learning and development.

Following recent Child Protection training, we have identified online and technology safety as an area that we feel should be highlighted due to children's increasing use of smart phones, the Internet and mobile applications.

We have been working alongside The Vodafone Foundation to increase our own awareness and would like to share the charity's most recent publication '**Digital Parenting**' with you all – these will be handed out over the next week. The magazine has many helpful tips and advice for parents of children of all ages, which we hope you will find useful.



Holidays

Please can we ask that if you have any holiday booked for the summer that you provide Stephanie with the dates. This will enable us to plan our staffing levels and catering over the busy summer holiday season.

Thank you for your cooperation.

School leavers 2018

Sadly we have reached that time of the year where we are busy preparing for our Sunflowers to move on to school. To help aid our preparations please can we ask that, if you haven't already, you provide Stephanie with your child's leave date. Please also ensure that you check your invoices carefully and take into account any alterations before making payments.

Around and about the Nursery



Bluebells

The month of May began with **'Be kind to animal's week'**. The Bluebells spent time looking at pictures of their pets from home and listening to the adults talk about how we care for them. Milo was excited to look at pictures of horses like the ones he has and Leo liked saying "cat" each time he saw a picture of his cat. This led on to the children using soft cuddly toys, stroking them gently and imitating the adult's actions.

May also marked **'Walk in the Woods'** month. The Bluebells have been investigating their natural surroundings, hunting for flowers in the fields, feeling the textures of the trees and looking at the chirping birds playing in the hedgerows. The Bluebells also spent time closely examining the flowers they picked as well as collecting tree bark. They then used paper and crayons to create marks to interpret flowers and bark rubbings. They enjoyed making their own nature-themed artwork.

We extended their play, by providing the children with a sensory tray, adding leaves and flowers to it and encouraging the children to use their senses to touch and smell the things they had collected. Later in the week we added animals that we would find in the woods, encouraging the use of single words, with the children imitating the animal sounds and keen to pass them to their friends who were playing alongside them.

Duncan enjoyed spending time with his family at Anglesey Abbey. He looked at the blossoming trees and the colours of the flowers. We combined this with our 'Walk in the Woods' month and created our own leaf collages. We felt the different textures and loved getting sticky when we glued them to the paper! Whilst out in the garden, Milo and Oscar loved smelling the herbs from the garden. We decided to take some back to our indoor environment and make rosemary sensory dough, where all of the children enjoyed patting and smelling it.

As the weather has been glorious, we decided to spend as much time outside as possible so the Bluebells have enjoyed some wonderful walks around the grounds. All of the Bluebells loved swishing and swashing in the grass giggling with excitement.

Towards the end of the month, it was **'Plant Conservation Day'**. All of the children got involved and with a little adult support planted their own candytufts. The children enjoyed digging in the soil while Allison dropped in the seeds before sprinkling them with water. Hopefully with lots of sunshine and water we will see them grow into some beautiful flowers.

After a very busy month, we sadly have to say goodbye to Milo, Ralph, Phoebe, Nina and Niko who make their journey across to Nursery House. We are sure they will have just as much fun in the Poppy room.

Poppies

This month we have been exploring our outdoor environment and observing all of the many features that come with it.

At the beginning of the month, Anouk visited the garden centre looking at all of the different shapes, colours and size of fish. We used this interest to create our own fish tank pictures. We experimented by sticking a variety of materials, including sand, tissue paper and cellophane. When sticking our blue cellophane onto the paper, Anna shouted "Water, water for fish" and pointing to where she placed it on her picture. We were very excited about the water and were intrigued when we found lots of sea creatures. We splashed around collecting them and found sharks, whales, dolphins and fish. Benjamin was very interested in the shark and Benjamin repeated the word with lots of enthusiasm. All of the children enjoyed repeating the animal names with increasing confidence.

In keeping with naming animals, we then browsed through a number of animal stories and picture books, we were very excited to find a tractor in the story 'Peep inside the farm'. Following on from this, we then created our own tractors by using a glue stick to spread glue with good control to stick parts of a tractor to create our pictures. Violet was particularly interested in the wheels and kept saying "Wheels round" and then would begin singing the wheels on the bus. As the wheels were the topic of conversation, we created lots of marks and looked at colours while rolling the cars along the paper to make the wheel marks. Whilst painting, Sophia, Benjamin and Maya-Rae were shouting 'Wheee' as they watched the cars rolling along the table.

After all of the lovely sunshine from the Bank Holiday weekend, we spent lots of time going swimming and playing in the paddling pools. We were very lucky that the sunshine continued which enabled us to fill the large tray and enjoy water play outside. Oscar enjoyed splashing his feet and filling and emptying with cups, he was very wet at the end of garden time! We then investigated more filling and emptying, using sand, which provided us with lots of opportunities to widen our sensory experiences. Parker added many different items including spoons and spades that the children enjoyed using to scoop, pour and transport sand around the room, demonstrating good control of tools.

Throughout May we have also been taking part in 'Walk in the Woods' month, which allowed us to explore our outdoor environment. We have observed animals, objects and trees, as well as enjoying a number of walks around the Nursery grounds which have led to us finding many different flowers, such as daisies, bluebells and of course some dandelion clocks which Anouk, Maya-Rae and Violet had a go at blowing away the seeds. We also walked through the long wavy grass and Sophia laughed as it tickled her legs with Violet saying "Grass long, grass long" Whilst being out, we took some crayons and paper and experimented with the environment and created some marks using trees and bark. We took this back to the Nursery and continued to create pictures using cars to make tree stumps and sponges to make the leaves.

We have explored our sensory area outside and enjoyed feeling the soil, manipulating it with our hands. We planted some marigold seeds into a pot for Plant Conservation Day, we can't wait to see what happens to them over the coming weeks.

We have also created a display board within the Poppy room full of the wonderful wildlife activities that we have been taking part in. We have added photos of the children enjoying these activities so please do come and have a look.

Lastly, we would like to say a big hello to Milo, Nina, Ralph, Phoebe and Niko who will be joining us from the Bluebells - we guarantee you'll have a great time! We also have to say goodbye to Anna and Oscar who are making the short trip down the stairs to the Daisy room, we are looking forward to seeing you on the way to the garden. The Poppies would also like to say a sad farewell to Violet who is leaving us, we hope you enjoy your new adventures Violet!

Daisies

We started the month by looking at how we are kind to animals. This encouraged lots of conversations about our own pets and how we treat them. We moved on to create an animal area in the Daisy room where we all stroked, fed and took great care of many different animals. It was lovely to see and hear such caring attitudes towards animals during which Tilly told the group "Mummy makes animals better".

This month we have also enjoyed exploring and talking about the topic 'Walk in the Woods'. This provided a great opportunity for the Daisies to spend lots of time outdoors, exploring the woods, tree lines, meadow and fields. We loved to look at the different trees, commenting on the sizes, leaves, bark and the giant shadows they created. When we got back to the Nursery, we decided to do some shadow drawing in the garden with Benedict using lots of different colours to creating marks on the pavement from the outline of his friends. When drawing, the children were soon distracted by the birdsong. The children decided to go on a bird hunt to see where the sounds were coming from - they saw lots of different varieties of birds and even tried to imitate the sounds they make. The children were keen to communicate what they see within the Nursery grounds, which has sparked a huge interest in the natural world around them.

Whilst out walking, we stumbled across many creepy crawlies, such as worms, spiders and bees. We used the magnifying glasses to look at worms up close. Jake joined in and found a crane fly and pointed it out to all of his friends. We carried on this interest by looking at bug books and talking about our favourite bugs, asking the children what colours the bugs were and if they could walk, run or fly?

Also during May we enjoyed 'Plant Conservation Day'. The children engaged in activities that involved getting creative and very messy. We started off by using our hands to create the trees and also help plant seeds in pots that are sat outside the West Barn. We discussed that plants need water and sunshine to grow. Please do go and have a look at what they have grown and hopefully we will see them begin to sprout some flowers in the coming weeks.

Also this month, Benedict took a trip to the dentist, and on his return was very eager to express his recent visit with his friends. We started by talking about what teeth are and what we use them for. We then moved on to making our own teeth pictures and creating marks with the strokes of toothbrushes. Maya said 'When we eat sugar we have to brush our teeth'. The children went on to talk about brushing their own teeth and showed a great understanding of being independent with their own self-care.

We would like to give warm welcome to Oscar and Anna who are making the short journey down the stairs to the Daisy room, we hope you have lots of fun with us.

Sunflowers

May has brought some lovely weather, which has meant the Sunflowers have been able to spend the majority of their time outside exploring their natural surroundings. We have been on many walks and investigated the different wildflowers and trees that surround us. We also discussed the wildlife that may live around us, which prompted the children to ask questions about the world. Daisy asked "What animal lives here?" when we stopped next to a bush. The children decided on a hedgehog with Evelyn saying "I think they live in leaves". When we returned to the Sunflower room we continued with this topic with the children making leaf hedgehogs, discussing all the different textures as they stuck them to the paper. As Athena was arranging the leaves, the children used the words "spikey", "hard" and "prickly" to describe what the hedgehog would feel like. Zoey then told the group that "If they are scared hedgehogs roll into a ball".

Whilst participating in 'Walk in the Woods' month the Sunflowers enjoyed making leaf and bark rubbings, comparing the differences and similarities of the patterns and shapes of the objects that we found. The children also displayed a growing interest in the grass and we spoke about the length and colour. We cut the grass using scissors, demonstrating great skill and awareness of safety, to create our fantastic hide and seek sensory area. We hid different animals in the grass, which helped the children persist in finding them whilst using lots of positional language.

As you are aware the week commencing 7th May was 'Be kind to animals' week and the Sunflowers enjoyed many animal-themed activities. We used our animal small world to sort the wild animals and farm animals into their different categories. As we did this we spoke about each animal's natural environment and where they should live, showing concern for the living animals that are kept in cages. Our messy play consisted of sand and water along with sea animals. The children loved to mix the textures and commented on the feel of wet sand between their fingers. The Sunflowers then used their artistic skills drawing pictures of their favourite animals, some choosing to draw their own pets. In small groups the children shared their own experiences and used descriptive language to showcase their pictures and what characteristics their animals had. All of the children were confident and had a sense of achievement after taking turns to discuss their picture, they were then proudly displayed on our board.

Throughout May Anna, Juliette and Daisy all went to the seaside, which sparked many conversations about the animals that they may find such as crabs, sea horses and fish. We then mixed colours to make our own textured seaside pictures using sand, chalk, paint and collage materials. This prompted the children to talk about the different marks that they were making, the colours of the resources and to explore textures by mixing resources together.

For 'Plant Conservation Day', the Sunflowers planted some cress seeds and also some wild flowers. They talked about what they need to grow with Asher saying, "They need water and sunlight to grow". The children also went over to the West Barn and helped plant the seeds in the pots. Please do go over and have a look with your child and watch how they grow over time.

This month we say a very sad goodbye to Selena who will be leaving us to start her new adventures at school.