

# The Wendy House Impington

July Newsletter 2018



## The Meadow and Conservation Cabin

Our lovely cabin is now finished and all the children are having a great time using it. We are thrilled with how all the work went and also excited about future plans. We hope that you have enjoyed the tour of The Meadow - the weather has been perfect for you all to see where the children are playing and some of the things they get up to. As we have already said, this is an on-going project as we have more plans to improve and extend on the outdoor learning opportunities for the children. Here are a just a few pics of what the children have so far enjoyed.



*National Insect Week*



*World Ocean Day*



*Around and about the Nursery*



## Bluebells

The month of June has been incredibly busy for our Bluebells!

Everyone has spent lots of time outside in their gardens, enjoying the beautiful summer sunshine. Leo enjoyed having a picnic with his tea set at home, which encouraged him to imitate sounds and everyday actions. Nivedha also loved being outside, and whilst at Nursery, she has been showing the adults her shoes and trying to put them on by herself. Once out in the garden, all of the children enjoyed finding pebbles and used them to create different marks. The adults laid out the paper and allowed the children to use the pebbles and paint to create their own summer scenes, what a lot of colourful fun!

We also took part in 'World Ocean Day', which saw our Bluebells get involved by looking at the different shapes, colours and noises of the sea creatures. The children created their very own sea creature mobile which is hanging in the room, so please do go and have a look. To create their mobile the children were given lots of different resources to choose from and were encouraged to paint, stick and colour them to make different textures and patterns. We also created an 'under the sea' water play area where the bluebells explored the various sea creatures, mimicking the actions of fish and crabs. Leo and Lucie loved splashing their hands together in the water laughing at each other as they played. After discovering so many different textures, Charlotte made a coral reef using lots of different coloured foam. The children enjoyed manipulating the different textures and hiding the fish and other sea animals deep into the soft springy reefs. This activity encouraged all of the Bluebells to play alongside each other and on some occasions taking turns, as we quickly found out that the turtle was a particular favourite!

The Bluebells have also enjoyed looking at flowers both at home and during their time at Nursery. Hayley provided the children with some paint and paper encouraging them to use their hands and fingers to create marks, they loved lifting their hands and observing the marks that they left behind. To extend this activity the children went on to explore their surroundings further by going on a nature walk around the Nursery grounds to find flowers and insects. Oscar found a poppy on the track, he bent down and then smelt it, he was smiling excitedly before showing the rest of his friends. Next they stopped off in some long grass and Leah, Betty and Finlay particularly enjoyed running their hands through the wavy strands. Jonah found a spider when it was his turn and was eager to communicate this by pointing at it excitedly. With this in mind, we decided to create our own bugs for 'National Insect Week'. We extended the children's play by providing them with a sensory tray that was filled with lots of interesting insects to find as they hid in the long wavy grass. The children were able to focus develop their hand-eye coordination by picking them up and hiding them in other parts of the grass. We hope that with the help of our new Conservation Cabin we will be able to observe many other insects and creatures that live around us as well as spending a lot more time in this lovely new natural environment.

**The Bluebells would like to give a warm welcome to Emily who is joining us this month, and a very sad goodbye to Claudia, Oscar, Leo and Finlay who make their way over to Nursery House to continue their adventures - see you in the garden.**

## **Poppies**

The Poppies have had a very busy month enabled by all of the warm weather that we have been lucky enough to experience.

This month started off with Nina enjoying a ride on the teacups whilst on a trip to Wicksteed Park with his family. The children were then able to create their own tea cups pictures using their fingers and paint. Milo was very excited to feel the paint on his hands by squealing “Daa daa daa” as he tapped his fingers on to the paper. Anouk was keen to name the colours of the paint, correctly shouting “Blue’, green!” Nina was very keen to make circular motions and observe the marks left behind when she moved her hand. This wonderful activity quickly moved on to the children taking part in full body painting! Maya-Rae loved this sensory experience and was keen to smear the paint on her hands, tummy and legs – very messy but great fun! This activity sparked lots of interest of body parts with Sophia, Parker and Violet all correctly naming hands, feet, arms, legs, among others, when looking at our body parts flashcards.

The Poppies enjoyed taking part in ‘World Ocean Day’. Each child had the opportunity to create their own under the sea picture, using paint, tissue paper and glue. Siobhan also provided the children with some water in the messy trays and the children used pebbles and grass to make a lovely under the sea habitat for our fish to happily swim around. We talked about how happy the fish would be and then talked about them being sad when we added some plastic rubbish, with the children keen to clean up the mess so the fish could swim happily once again. In the garden we also enjoyed water play, with the children jumping and splashing around excitedly. Nina also enjoyed the water outside, using a paintbrush to create watermarks on the pavement. Benjamin used the brushes to mix the water so Kerrie added bubble mix so that he could make “Big bubbles” in the water whilst also shouting, “Pop bubbles!”

Another exciting theme celebrated this month was ‘National Insect Week’. The Poppies started off by going on a bug hunt to see what insects they could find. Siobhan spotted a ladybird so she showed the children and talked about the shapes and the amount of spots that he had. This inspired the children to create their own sun catcher ladybirds, making a wonderful window display using red cellophane and black card. Following this, and continuing the insect related fun, we used insect flashcards to discuss the different types of bugs we may see, mentioning size, colour and how they move. After talking about insects we trotted off around the grounds in search of creepy crawlies and using the magnifying glasses we crawled close to the ground amongst the long grass. Whilst out, Kerrie talked about how bugs like dark areas to live so we decided to create some small bug houses to put into the garden. Hopefully over the coming weeks we have some new tenants moving in and look forward to exploring our wonderful new Conservation Cabin and Meadow.

**The Poppies would like to welcome Claudia, Oscar, Leo and Finlay who join us from the Bluebell room, we hope you have lots of fun with us. We also say a sad goodbye to Anouk and Benjamin who are making the short journey down the staircase to the Daisies - we will see you on the way to the garden!**

## Daisies

The Daisies interests this month have been focused around holidays.

During the weekend a few of our Daisies and their families went camping so we decided to create an interactive small world scene. Jacob and Freya were very keen to involve themselves in this activity and we discussed their mini holidays with the group. Tilly was particularly interested in the tent and said "Tents are for sleeping in" whilst Benedict held his ice cream over the campfire and informed everyone he was "Cooking ice cream!" Freya then joined the conversation and said "I go on an aeroplane on holiday". With this in mind we discussed different types of transport with the children, looking at books to see which types the Daisies have travelled on before, focusing on their shape, size and colour. Allison extended this activity in the garden by encouraging the children to make their own holiday vehicles using boxes and steering wheels. The children talked about how cars and buses have wheels but aeroplanes have wings.

As well as holidays, the children had visited cafes and went on shopping trips with their parents. Allison created '*The Wendy House Bakery*' in the role-play area and the children loved expressing their imaginative skills by cooking up a storm making sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and pouring coffee. The children then asked to make their own cakes with Mimi helping to pour the flour into the bowl and Thomas scooping the butter out of the tub, "It's not soft" he said as he tried to spoon it out. All of the children enjoyed eating cakes at teatime and even had a treat of taking one home. With the children enjoying using tools to mix, stir, scoop and pour, Neve set up the water tray to continue with allowing the children to use one handed tools and further develop their physical movements and positional language. Jacob, Katie and Jake decided that they wanted to splash their hands when it was their turn so they ended up very wet!

Also this month we celebrated 'World Ocean Day'. We read the stories '*I can save the ocean*' and '*One world*'. We discussed how the fish can swim fast around the sea and that if we leave plastic and rubbish around it can stop them having fun and be dangerous which will make the fish unhappy. Following this the children created an under-the-sea display using painted cardboard fish and plastic bags. The children recalled that plastic harms the fish and the sea and that "It will make the fish very sad". With our recent effort to increase our recycling, we have been encouraging the children to help ensure we do not throw away plastic, cardboard and paper in the bin. The children showed a huge interest in this topic so we are excited to see what July will bring when we all take part in 'The Plastic Challenge.'

Moving on from sea creatures, we also celebrated 'National Insect Week' which coincided with the Daisies noticing that something had been nibbling on the courgette leaves in the garden and that this particular insect had left a shimmering trail of slime behind. George went in search for the insect and found an ant "Ooooh, there's one small ant" and Anna found a snail, watching it move she said "He's very slow!" Elijah came over to have a look at the snail and said "He's small not big." The children carried on this interest and made their own insects, painting egg trays to create ants and paper plates to create butterflies and ladybirds.

Now The Meadow is ready we can't wait to get outside even more and learn lots of interest things about nature, animals and how we can help them stay safe.

**The Daisies have to say goodbye to Elijah and George who continue their Nursery journey through the gate. We say a huge hello to Anouk and Benjamin who are making their way down the stairs to us.**

## Sunflowers

The month of June brought lots of new activities and themes and of course lots of sunshine!

We started off in Wendy Wood and the Nursery grounds, reciting the *Gruffalo* story after Daisy's recent Gruffalo hunt and Henry's trip to Thetford forest. The *Gruffalo* is such a popular and well-loved story that the children happily recalled their favourite parts of the story looking for fox, owl, snake and of course The Gruffalo! We searched high and low, under leaves and amongst the fallen branches and twigs. Eventually Digby saw something and said, "It might be the fox" whilst Athena shouted "I found snake." Evelyn then jumped around saying "I found The Gruffalo, I found the Gruffalo." The Sunflowers talked about his features and decided to make their own Gruffalos using play dough. The children picked the correct colours for his eyes and prickles. James said "Break that in half to make 2 orange eyes" and Florence said he "Rooooooars" imitating his actions and sounds.

Athena has enjoyed trips to the park, playing on a pirate ship so we incorporated pirate play into our week with the children keen to play as a large group. This encouraged the children to cooperate with each other and accept other ideas, whilst also establishing their own views, which was lovely to see. The Sunflowers made treasure pieces and Emily hid them in the garden for all of the children to find. To be able to find the treasure the children had to make treasure maps, "X marks the spot arghhh" said Henry drawing a huge X on his map. Megan decided she needed an eye patch for her hidden treasure so made a beautiful eye patch to wear "Arghh I'm a pirate." Once the sunflowers had taken it in turns to find the hidden treasure outside they then all settled down to listen to a CD story called '*Portside Pirates*' with all of the children joining in singing and dancing.

Also this month the children took part in 'World Oceans Day'. We used the stories '*I can save the ocean*' and '*One world*' to raise awareness of how we can keep the oceans clean and safe. This sparked conversations about the sea animals and where they lived. Emily explained that sometimes rubbish and plastic ends up in the sea and makes the fish sad and is harmful to them. The Sunflowers then decided to make their own display to make their parents aware of plastics in the sea. Each child made a fish with either a happy face or a sad face on it and talked about their emotions using a great range of vocabulary.

The Sunflowers enjoyed talking about bugs during 'National Insect Week'. Harrison brought in an insect viewer, which helped to magnify the insects to make them look bigger which was great for seeing a spider's long legs, a woodlouse's armoured jacket and an earwig's small wings. Zoey brought in some honeycomb from her home and said "Mummy helps the bees as they make honey." This encouraged lots of conversation and the children talked about their favourite insects and then went on a bug hunt to see what they could find. After finding the insects the children decided to create their own, they used egg cartons to make ants, handprints to make spiders and potatoes dipped in paint to create ladybirds, it was a great colourful activity.

Now The Meadow is ready to be used we can't wait to get outside into the Conservation Cabin. We are very excited about learning more about the natural world, using the natural resources and having lots of fun in this great new space.

**We say a sad farewell to Annabel who is leaving us to start her new adventures at school this year. We are very happy to welcome Elijah and George who are joining us – we hope you have lots of fun with us and that you've got your wellingtons ready for Wendy Wood!**