

The Wendy House Shingay



December Newsletter 2018

Christmas is coming...

We love Christmas at The Wendy House and seeing the excitement build in the children as the big day approaches. It really is the most magical time of the year, capturing the children's imaginations as they tell tales of Christmas past and look forward to spending time with their loved ones and of course the annual visit from a certain jolly elf! Christmas provides the most amazing learning experience for the children from the sounds, colours, shapes, textures, along with the many sensory experiences and all help us to create some lovely activities that help children of all ages learn and develop. It is also a time for the children to develop an understanding of the more meaningful elements of Christmas so that children understand that the festival is more than just receiving presents.

We have so many exciting activities planned for the children and hope you look forward to hearing all about them.

Dates for your diary - A final reminder of the upcoming dates this December:

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.

Your child's attendance during 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!

Please visit the Grotto & enjoy a mince pie!

One of the most exciting parts of Christmas at The Wendy House is helping the busy elves set up our Christmas Grotto!!

Please do take a few minutes to go down to the soft play to have a peek (open from week commencing Monday 10th December) - just ask a member of staff and they will arrange for you to visit - please help yourself to a mince pie too.

A few general messages...



Please can we ask that parents DO NOT drive on the grass. This is not only for safety reasons but, as you will no doubt be aware, we take great pride in our grounds and as such ensure our groundsmen keep them in the best possible condition. On a more practical note – driving on the grass at this time of year you are likely to get stuck!

Thank you for your co-operation.

Home Diaries

Can we please ask that parents use the pink /blue home diaries to inform the Nursery staff of activities and experiences the children enjoy away from the Nursery. This information is key to enabling us to develop and extend the children's learning by planning activities that reflect their interests at home and beyond. Thank you!

Diwali

Many thanks to Sen and Orin's parents who shared traditional dolls and diva lamps for our children to play with to help the children celebrate Diwali. The children remarked about the bright colours of the lamps and candleholders and went on to make Rangoli patterns, using bright coloured paints and pencils. We also read the story of Rama and Sita, with the children listening intently recalling the details of the story and in particular sparking lots of imaginative discussions.



Remembrance Day

The Nursery was decorated in bold red poppies to celebrate all the men, women and animals that fought bravely to help protect our freedom. All the rooms created their own poppy, forming a cascading field of poppies to display proudly. The Sunflowers shared their feelings after either watching a parade on the television or in their local village and towns. The children marched through our Nature Maze and practiced standing really still for our minute silence.



Fun and games inside and out!









News from the Rooms...

Bluebells

November started with a bolt of colour with Bonfire Night giving the Bluebells the perfect opportunity to create blasts of colours using unusual resources, such as scrubbing brushes, toothbrushes and spatulas, to make marks with paint. We talked to the children about the colours and used instruments to make wheezing, popping and banging sounds. We finished off the fun having tea around our indoor 'bonfire', which caused a lot of excitement for our little Bluebells.

Many of the children have enjoyed playing with the fallen autumn leaves in their gardens so we continued this at Nursery. The Bluebells spent a session at the conservation cabin collecting leaves to fill and empty into containers and looking at autumn books. Our autumn colour book stirred an interest with the Bluebells able to lift flaps and feel different textures. During the leaf play there were items hidden for the Bluebells to find, such as wooden logs, trains and trucks.

Also this month, we were excited to learn that Angus and his family went on a train journey, which sparked a musical interest of singing '*Down by the station*' and listening to the train sounds as the Bluebells pressed buttons on our ICT toys. Laurence and Sen sat with Lisa to read '*That's not my Train*' feeling the patterns and making "Choo choo" sounds.

The Bluebells ended the month with animals in the small world trays, creating imaginary play activities to capture each child's interests. Angus and Chloe collected the farm animals loading them into the tractor and taking them round the room. Emmie and Oliver showed much enjoyment feeling the skin of the dinosaurs as they "Rooooooared".

Conservation Cabin

The Bluebells enjoyed being inside the cabin as November brought wet starts to the days. This did not dampen the Bluebell's spirit and enthusiasm for the outdoors as they donned their waterproofs and heading over with gusto, hearing the squelch under their feet! Great pleasure was had by all in building log towers, helping Lisa and Sharon by passing them the logs then knocking them down to start all over again. We also enjoyed lots of seasonal stories and songs.

With the whole Nursery learning about 'National Tree Awareness Week', the Bluebells layered themselves up to go and see all the different trees around the Nursery grounds. We are so fortunate that the children can get up close to nature by feeling the difference in their bark and seeing which animals live in each of the trees and counting the leaves that have fallen from them.

Poppies

Bonfire Night made a big impression on our Poppies, with a large number of them experiencing fireworks for the first time. Reading through the children's blue diaries informed us of how much fun the children had experienced with the bright colours filling the skies and the noises that came off the rockets and the gasps of the people watching, Sophia would say, "Bang" repeatedly as we recalled our experiences. Out in the garden the Poppies got to create loud sounds of fireworks using pots and pans, hitting them with wooden spoons and giggling as the noise would startle them.

We finished off the bonfire fun by heading over to the conservation cabin for tea, sitting around the campfire with the Daisies, mesmerised by the flames. The children enjoyed homemade soup, potato wedges and hotdogs – it was delicious!

The Poppies also enjoyed playing with tents and to start with playing peekaboo in and out of the window and doors! The Poppies became so animated with one another and Callie and Jacob would say each child's name as they appeared out of the tents, giggling in the process. We also used the peekaboo books with the Poppies lifting the flaps to reveal what was hiding, learning and perfecting new words and repeating actions.

Conservation Cabin

A wet and damp November meant one thing for the Poppies - puddle jumping! With their boots and waterproofs on, off they set to find the big puddles to splosh and splash in. Warming themselves on their return to the Nursery in our heated boot room, the Poppies were toasty warm in no time and loved the change in weather and fun the wet weather had brought.

We have also enjoyed lots of animal songs and stories inside the cabin and messy play activities. We filled the tray with sand and soil, hiding leaves that we collected on our walks. The children would dig and scrape away until unearthing the leaves and a few other surprises!

Finally, we celebrated the beauty of the trees whilst learning about 'National Tree Awareness Week'. The Poppies set off to find the different trees in our grounds, spending time looking at the different leaves that had fallen from the trees and talking about how big and tall they are and if we could spread our arms around them. Some of the trees are very big so we held hands and hugged the trees together!

Daisies

The Daisies started November talking to each other about their families after spending time together for Bonfire Night. Ella thought it would be a great idea to draw our family members, sharing key features that we could remember. Joshua told everyone about his Mummy, Daddy and two sisters and how they all play with him, whilst Lucia told us about her family holidays to Italy and having fun at the beach.

Bonfire Night started in the day with the Daisies sparking up the fire pit and enjoying a Bonfire tea of homemade butternut squash soup, hotdogs, potato wedges and fruit rocket kebabs. It also brought an explosion of colour as the children created what they remembered from the night. The Daisies saw this as an opportunity to blend colours together to see what would happen, carrying out an experiment of mixing colours. The use of cotton buds to explore the colours change captivated the Daisies, as they focused on and discussed the ever-changing shades and colours.

Rory visited the National History Museum with his family, coming back astonished by the colossal amount of dinosaur fossils he saw. The Daisies were so enthused by Rory's tales that went on a hunt to find fossils in the outside sand pit, using small brushes and developing delicate fine movements. Emily was amazed when she found a fossil excitedly shouting, "Look at those marks" and pointing at the skeleton of the dinosaur fossil. This opened up a world of questions from our budding palaeontologists so we read many books on dinosaurs, talking about the differences in size, their scales and how they move.

Conservation Cabin

With the cooler autumn days setting in, the Daisies have noticed the birds are back circling our skyline hunting for food and resources to see them through winter. Robyn passed the binoculars out to her friends where she would point saying, "Look, bird in sky". All of the Daisies would look desperately trying not to miss the opportunity to see a bird soaring freely. Knowing it is going to get even colder the Daisies have been leaving more bird food out and dotting it in more high-level places for the birds to feast on before winter sets in.

The Daisies also looked at 'National Tree Awareness Week', looking at the different shapes and patterns of the tree bark. The Daisies moved around the grounds enjoying a bark rubbing exercise where they rubbed bark from each tree, comparing similarities and differences in the patterns on the paper.

Sunflowers

November started with a rather loud bang with the 5th November bringing excitement and astonishment to the Sunflower room. Each child desperately wanted to share their experience of the fireworks they had seen but also listened attentively to the story of why we celebrate Bonfire night. Quinn noticed that the fireworks resemble rockets, remarking "Rockets go into the sky with fuel that sets it off". With this in mind the Sunflowers watched clips of rockets preparing to launch and how they get into space. Harrison noticed the shapes, "That rocket has a cone on top and triangles at the bottom".

Amelie found a passion for singing Nursery Rhymes over one weekend, encouraging her peers to join her sharing their favourites and beginning to notice that words that sound similar. Eleanor commenting, "Bat, cat and mat" sound alike. This started the children experimenting with rhyming words, stringing as many together as possible. The Sunflowers set up a rhyming game, matching the rhyming words and once confident the children began to test extra words that were not on the game with Rhys choosing, "Bear and pear".

We all loved hearing about, and seeing photographs of, Maisie's day out ice-skating with her family. This then led to the children talking about ice and how it forms with us also carrying out a series of experiments. We hid objects in the ice, selecting tools to try and break the ice. We also used warm and cold water to help melt the ice, predicting which would be more helpful, all agreeing in the end that the warm water helped the most.

Conservation Cabin

As part of 'National Tree Awareness Week', the Sunflowers carried out a tree census to count how many trees we have in our grounds and to identify all the different types. We walked around the grounds holding our clipboards to tally them up, finding 4 different types and a total of 29 trees. We used factsheets to help the Sunflowers learn what each tree provided nature with and how animals may use the natural resources.

We also enjoyed a frosty woodland walk following a rather chilly evening. The Sunflowers enjoyed looking at the frosty spider webs in the trees and bushes and crunchy sounds underfoot as they walked through the nature maze.