

# The Wendy House Shingay

February Newsletter 2018



## An exciting year ahead

The year is well underway with lots of exciting activities going on in the Nursery. We have lots of plans for 2018 which centre around our outdoor learning opportunities for the children. Locally, we lead the way in outdoor learning and are looking forward to extending this further as the year unfolds. The great outdoors, our environment, wildlife, conservation and getting the children engaged and involved in nature are things that we feel passionate about and is definitely how we want the Nursery to develop further. We look forward to rolling out more outdoor learning opportunities for the children as the year progresses.



### Love is in the air!



Love is definitely in the air at The Wendy House this month as we look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day. As has become tradition, all the children have a special love heart to take home and fill with all the things they love. This could be people, pets, toys, food, books, anything at all! These hearts are always very popular and help us to further develop the children through their favourite things and interests. We look forward to seeing some of the things the children love.

### Chloe's baby news

We are super excited to tell everyone that our Room Leader in the Poppy room, Chloe Marshall, is expecting her first child this May. Chloe has been with us for the past 10 years and so this really is like a member of the family expecting a baby.



We will obviously advise Poppy parents in due course of when Chloe will be away on maternity leave and who will be taking on her Key children.

### Invoice request

Can we please ask you to check your invoice carefully each month and **ONLY** pay the amount due. Please make adjustments to voucher payments or standing orders if needed. Please do not round up payments, underpay or overpay.

The assignment of payments to each child (with the majority of parents paying by at least three or four different methods per child) means that this is a very lengthy and complex process which would be made much easier if the correct amount due is paid.

Your co-operation with this would be very much appreciated.

### Around and about the Nursery



# News from the Rooms ...

## Bluebells



When looking in the blue diaries, it was lovely to see what the children had been up to during the Christmas break. Many of our Bluebells had been away visiting relatives, as well as having friends and family visit them. We sat together looking at the pictures of families and friends and how Christmas was celebrated in different countries as Amilia had lots of fun in Columbia visiting grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The photos depicted them eating traditional food and enjoying the beautiful countryside. Ivy celebrated with her Chinese grandparents who were staying with her. Monty had a visit from Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, as this is a Finnish tradition for him to visit all the children personally. All the children enjoyed Christmas dinner, with Violet and Iola especially enjoying pigs-in-blankets and cauliflower cheese. Some tried Christmas pudding whilst others enjoyed ice cream and chocolate treats!

All the children received some lovely presents, including ICT toys with buttons and lights that make lots of different sounds, as well as puzzles, books and shape sorters. We have extended this by having the animal boards out. The children sat alongside familiar adults using fingers and thumbs to pick up, or point to, the recognisable pieces. Adults used words and gestures to encourage them to do this. All the children enjoyed clapping along with adults when meeting their goals. Spencer, Jacob and Albert sat together pressing the buttons on the 'Noisy Vehicle' book as an adult told the story.

We would like to put faces to names when reading the weekly diaries, so can you please bring in some photos for us. Unfortunately we are unable to print these off at Nursery, so no electronic photos please, but we would really appreciate if you could bring some in. We have another request for indoor slippers please. They help to keep the children's socks on but please be mindful that when we have our regular unannounced fire drills we do have to take the children outside immediately so slippers are very important.

*This month we welcome Callie, George and Julian to our room and hope they have lots of fun with us.*

## Poppies



The month of January began with tales of holiday fun! We got lots of exciting information from the children's blue diaries about new gifts they had received, activities they had enjoyed and friends and family they had visited.

Emily went on a magical holiday to Lapland where she met Santa and his reindeer and enjoyed sledging in the snow. We made our own small world winter scene with shaving foam snow, sequin snowflakes and lots of winter animals. Emily enjoyed showing her friends the 'reindeer' with excitement!

Zoe received new musical instruments so we got the instruments out and did lots of music and movement. We created our own shakers, filling bottles with rice and pasta and shaking them loudly! We also used the instruments and nursery rhyme CD for dancing and singing. The children absolutely loved joining in with actions and working their vocal chords!

William has had a brilliant time going for lots of walks and puddle splashing with his family and his dog, Sherbet. With all the rain we have had lately the Poppies have loved getting wrapped up in our all-in-one wetsuits and putting on wellies and going for short walks and splashing in big puddles!

Robyn has enjoyed playing with dinosaurs at home so we did lots of dinosaur activities including dinosaur foot stomping in paint. Emily said "Stomp, stomp" and Zoe used a "big dinosaur", reading the 'Daring Dinos' pop-up story and having a dinosaur hunt in the garden. Our Poppies were very good at making loud and scary "roars".

We have spent lots of time learning new words using picture books and flashcards. In particular the children love looking at animals and vehicles. The children had a great time looking at the lift-the-flap book 'Toes, ears and nose' so we could learn about body parts. As a result they have become excellent dancers to 'head, shoulders, knees and toes'!

Alfred has been playing with his favourite toys at home - anything with wheels! This interest is shared with many of the Poppies and they have loved tractor tyre painting, making their own tickets and acting out the 'Wheels on the bus' with chairs. They also enjoyed playing with the pull-along cars and making trains with the large soft blocks from the soft play room.

Sophie enjoyed some pretend-play tea parties at home with her teddies and bunnies and this created a brilliant opportunity for the children to play make believe at Nursery. We set up tea parties and picnics with the teddies and dolls and they all played alongside each other, practising to share and take turns, pretending to pour drinks and serve cake.

*February sees us give a big, warm welcome to Ivy and Albert as they join us in our room.*

## Daisies



We started January with a rush of excitement as the children shared their holiday adventures. We had lots of our Daisy children eager to share tales of spending time with their families and favourite presents received. George was very proud of his new toothbrush with countdown lights to indicate when he has brushed his teeth long enough. This prompted some toothbrush activities and discussions about how we use them and why we need to clean our teeth.

Lara had a lovely time away with her family in Norfolk, spending lots of time exploring the local beaches and going for long walks. She enjoyed talking about her trip to the beach whilst carrying out a small world beach role play, using the dolls house characters to show what she did.

There has been a big interest in toilet training in the Daisy room and the children have become very excited by our new countdown clock which beeps when it is time to try. The children have been smiling with pride with their achievements.

The children have enjoyed exploring new baby role-play items of bottles, beakers and cream containers, taking it in turns to share the objects and using them to act out familiar scenes the children have observed. They particularly enjoyed taking the lids off the new bottles and putting them back on again, displaying good dexterity in the process.

We have also been learning to categorise and count in sequence with some new zoo animal number cards. The Daisies have enjoyed counting the number of animals on each card before creating the sound of the animals. One of the children observed that "Manda has two cats and Julie has two cats, that's four cats", holding up fingers to support the counting.

This month we say goodbye to George and Zoe as they move through the gate to join the Sunflower room.

## Sunflowers



January started off with us sitting together reflecting, sharing our family photos and news from the holiday period. We spent time talking about our goals for the year and have made a display to group all our goals together. Michelle, Lauren and Lesley will be providing us with lots of fun activities to help us achieve them. We are pleased to say that Alex has already achieved his goal "To ride my big boy bike fast without stabilisers" - well done Alex!

Etta received her long-awaited jelly maker for Christmas. She told us all about the different types of jelly she can make and this discussion prompted Annabel to tell us all about a game she played at home with her family called "Gooley Louie". As everyone was interested in jelly, Lesley set up a jelly activity for us to experience. We liked the smell and the cold texture of the jelly so we moved on to looking at other cold things. We enjoyed exploring ice cubes and challenging ourselves to make ice towers before the cubes "ran away". We were all really pleased with ourselves when we managed to get the cubes to stack in place.

Matthew brought in his armour helmet to show his friends and this provided us with the opportunity to talk about armour and the jobs that knights do! We made our own hobby horses and pretended to ride them around the garden, having races and rescuing people. "They rescue people stuck in castles with dragons too" said Thomas.

Thomas told stories about dragons and knights which led us to group together to read the 'Zog' stories. These sparked our imagination and inspired us to play with small world dragons and build them houses with a range of different resources and materials. William spoke about how dragons spend lots of time hiding "from the loud, noisy children and only come out if you are quiet". We decided to investigate this theory and put on our detective boots and went for a walk around the Nursery grounds. We looked high and low but unfortunately we may have been too noisy as we were unable to find any. Instead, we used paint and our imaginations to create our own interpretation of what we thought the dragons might have looked like. Our dragons were very colourful!

Thomas visited the Fitzwilliam Museum where he got the opportunity to experiment using a projector to project his name onto the wall. The Sunflowers enjoyed hearing about this and looking at the picture his Mummy took and they were all keen to explore how this worked. We spent time drawing on laminate sheets and using a torch to project our pictures on the wall. "I can see my shadow hand on the wall, I make shadows at home on the wall with Daddy" Harrison said. We then set up a white sheet and took it in turns to use our hands to make shapes and had great fun trying to guess which shapes our friends were making. Lesley helped us make our own shadow theatre and told us the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' using shadows. We all enjoyed having a go using the props to create our own shadow stories.

This February we offer a warm welcome to Zoe and George as they join us in the Sunflower room. We are sure they will enjoy all the activities we have to offer.