

The Wendy House Impington

June Newsletter 2016



*I am lucky to be what I am! Thank goodness I'm not just a clam or a ham,
or a dusty old jar of gooseberry jam!*

Dr Seuss

Meet our new management team!



We are delighted to say that we are now in a position to announce our new management structure within the Nursery.

Stephanie has been promoted from Deputy to Nursery Manager. She will be ably supported by Charlotte, who is promoted to Senior Deputy Manager, whilst Siobhan has been promoted to Junior Deputy.

We have spent the last six weeks, working closely with all the staff and are confident that we have appointed a strong, knowledgeable management team.

All three will now undertake a six month intensive training period as they step up into their more senior roles. Matt and

Kerry will still be sharing management duties with Stephanie whilst the girls are being trained further and, along with Jacquie, will all very much be contactable either by email, phone or face-to-face meetings.

We are very excited about these new appointments as we guide the Nursery into a new era of management. Congratulations to all three - we are all looking forward to the future.

Dates for your Diary

Tempest Photography will be with us on **Thursday 7th July from 9 am**. Proofs are handed out but as always, there is no obligation to buy. If you would like your child's photo taken but they do not attend on Thursday's, you are welcome to bring them at 9 am - to the soft play room in the West Barn. You will have to stay with your child and photos are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Sunflower's Graduation Party will be on **Thursday 21st July from 9.15 - 12.15 pm**. As always we have a fun morning planned, with a visit from Ark Farm and all their lovely animals. We will have party games and party food and hopefully everyone will have a really great time. There is also an added bit of excitement this year as the Sunflower's will be able to have pony rides on shetland pony, Bo.



This is open to all Sunflowers. For those children that aren't leaving this year or who don't normally attend on Thursdays, they are also very welcome with no charge. We only ask that you drop off and collect at the stated times please.

Teacher's feedback

We have had some really lovely feedback from the primary school teachers who have been visiting us to meet our Sunflower leavers. They have been very complimentary about the Nursery and commented on how well prepared our Sunflower's are for their move to school. We try to do as much as we can to make the Nursery to School transition as smooth and as anxiety-free as we can. From looking at the children's schools on-line with them, to practising changing into uniform and using a tray at lunchtimes, there are lots of little things that do help them to start to adjust.

It is a big step and a lot for a small person to compute, so it was also nice to hear from all the teachers that our Sunflowers all seem very confident and excited about their next big step - it's just very hard for all of us!

Holiday Dates



Can you please let us know of any dates that your child/ren will not be in Nursery, to help us plan for staffing and catering. Thank you.

The Wendy House celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday



We had such a lovely time celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday last month. We had a whole week of fun activities and loved seeing all the different portraits the children drew of our Monarch - their interpretations were inspired! We couldn't have asked for better weather for our street party, when the sun shone all day. Katrina made a delicious afternoon tea with individual Victoria sponges for everyone which went down very well!

News from the Rooms ...

Bluebells



Bluebells have been enjoying exploring sensory mark-making and have keenly noticed the effects of making marks. Following on from this we are going to be exploring patterns and prints as our next topic.

We are going to be using our bodies, art tools and some everyday objects as well as some more unusual items to make exciting shapes. This will allow us to make links by exploring repeated actions and their results.

Our excitement surrounding all things animal-based is still running high. We are looking forward to some fantastic animal-themed messy activities like foot prints, 'mud' dough and slimey swamp play. To help support our growing language skills we will also have our noisy zoo and small world items, accompanied by familiar books and some new baby signs. It's going to be brilliant to explore babbling, testing out new voice sounds and emerging words.

Please could we remind all parents to clearly name clothing and shoes, especially as summer clothes are now making an appearance.

We say a big goodbye to Henry and Willis who have moved over to the Poppy room, and say a big hello to Helena and Eira who are joining us in the Bluebell room.

Poppies



We have lots of exciting activities to look forward to this month in the Poppy room, with our topic being 'Summer Holidays'. This will open up a large variety of all different activities and creations we can explore.

As the children have really enjoyed our travel agents role-play we shall continue with this. Our Poppies love looking at the travel brochures as we help them to 'look' for destinations and their friends who are away on holiday. We will use lots of sand and blue materials to create our very own beach scene,

and experiment with blocks, colours and marks as we use lots of brightly coloured paints to decorate our own buckets and spades. We will also be decorating lots of pasta shells and sticking them down to create our own large and beautiful shells, and this will help us to further develop our fine motor skills and our pincer grip (gripping between thumb and finger). We have a selection of new and exciting messy play activities which we will be exploring too. Firstly, we will have some textured sand in which we will be able to pick up and manipulate and mould into lots of exciting shapes, as we also learn to take a risk, engage in new experiences and learn by trial and error. We will make two different types of salt dough - a blue one to imitate the calm sea and a yellow one containing sand to allow children to explore the rough, gritty sand textures. We will make use of the sand tray with buckets and spades in the garden and fill our messy tray with water to replicate 'the beach' as we enjoy the process of filling and emptying containers. To round off our topic we will also be expressing a sense of curiosity about objects, events and people, as we read about our summer adventures in our pink books.

Finally, throughout the month we will be having a treasure basket out in the room which will be changed every week to allow us to use our senses to explore shapes, colours and materials.

We would like to welcome Willis and Henry who continue their journey through Nursery life, up the stairs to join us.

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... News from the Rooms cont.

Daisies



During July our topic is going to be 'Summer' and 'Holidays'. As our Daisies love all things tactile and sensory, we will use this topic to explore our senses through various textured messy play activities and describing what we have seen. We will be encouraging the children to describe how different materials feel, such as sand, water, sea shells and also discussing various different creatures we might see or find at the beach or in the sea.

We will also be creating an interactive 'rock pool' display which will help the children to develop a greater understanding of positional language, when hiding various creatures under, above etc. This builds nicely on from our recent interest in the tadpoles and frogs and the homes we made for them.

We are also very keen to learn about any planned or past holidays, including pictures. We would love you to share this in your child's pink books. We then hope to encourage the children to share their experiences with their peers and engage confidently with others. Storytime will also be great fun as we will be looking at lots of summer-themed stories, a few of our favourites being 'Winnie the Witch at the Seaside' and 'Tiddler, the Storytelling Fish' to name but a few.

Look out also for lots of lovely art work and exciting summer displays. We can't wait to get started!

Sunflowers



This month the Sunflowers are going to be concentrating on 'Summer'. We will be talking about summer, what we wear, and talking about keeping safe when it is hot, such as the importance of wearing hats and applying suncream and drinking lots when we are out in the garden. The Sunflowers will be going on walks to collect flowers to make summer collages and prints and we will be having summer-themed messy play trays such as a beach sensory tray with water, sand and shells. We would like it if you could provide photos for your child's show and tell topic of 'Summer'. We would

appreciate any photos of your child enjoying the sunshine maybe at the beach or even in the garden.

There will be lots of activities for our school leavers. We will be talking a lot about the schools they will be attending and discussing their school visits which have already started. We will have extra show and tells based on schools and will be putting what is bought in on the new display board in order for the children to show their friends and discuss them. We will have school uniforms out in the room so that the leavers can get used to dressing themselves, something they will have to do at school. We also have school book bags so they can look at what they will have to carry to and from school every day. We will also continue practising with a tray at lunch time, something the children have been doing now for a few weeks to get them used to having a tray at school. We are very excited about the month of July!

We say a sad farewell to Bailey, Aiden, Aarya and Owen who are starting the next phase of life at school - we will miss you all!

Meet the Team



Stephanie Hunter - Manager

Our newly appointed Manager, Stephanie heads up the Sunflower room and does vital work preparing the children for their move to primary school. Outside of work she loves spending time with her nephew, Oliver. She also likes watching her local football team, as well as organising events to promote the club.



Charlotte Reynolds - Deputy Manager

Charlotte's calm presence is reassuring for parents who are leaving their babies for the first time. Charlotte is the eldest of 7 and is well used to sleepless nights and the challenges of getting out of the house with little people in tow. She loves tending to her allotment and caring for her vast array of pets which include a bearded dragon!



Siobhan Taylor - Junior Deputy Manager

Siobhan does a fantastic job of heading up the Poppy room. She loves her Poppies and works hard to encourage their speech and all round development. Outside of work, football mad Siobhan supports her local football team and enjoys organising and promoting fundraising events for the club.



Jenni Langridge - Level 3 Practitioner

Jenni plays a hugely important role in the babies lives. Her mum was a childminder so has been around children since she was 13 years old. She has an art degree and loves to paint and be creative. She loves to be in her garden and looking after her 3 bengal cats. Her secret past time is playing on the swings!



Christie Mead - Level 3 Practitioner

Christie works alongside Stephanie with the pre-school children and is proficient in helping them to expand their knowledge and skills. She loves to spend time with her family and enjoys art and craft and generally making things.



Kerrie Foster - Level 3 Practitioner

Kerrie offers invaluable support to Siobhan with the Poppies. Her calm, caring personality is perfect in helping the Poppies to develop independence. In her spare time she loves spending time with her family and visiting her grandparents.



Alison Grey - Level 3 Practitioner

Alison's sense of fun is very welcome in the Daisy room, where she plays a pivotal role. She is constantly working on new ideas to challenge and develop the children. Outside of work Alison likes to read and enjoys competing in cycling events.



Chloe Smissen - Level 3 Practitioner

Our newest full-time member of staff, Chloe has already fitted in perfectly with the rest of the team and makes a valued contribution in the Daisy room. In her spare time she likes to bake tasty treats for her family and friends.



Charmaine Wilson - 1:1 Support Worker

Part of Charmaine's work involves working one-to-one. She has been a great addition to the Nursery, as her enthusiasm, energy and sense of fun all make her a valued member of the team. Outside of work, Charmaine enjoys watching her children play football. She also enjoys gardening and swimming.



Hayley Horrod - Level 1 Practitioner

Hayley was a childminder and is a mum of three, so is used to juggling the demands of childcare and motherhood. She helps to support the Sunflower room where she offers invaluable help. Hayley enjoys riding her motorbike, walking and spending time with her family.



Emily Bennett - Trainee Practitioner

Emily has already proved herself to be a natural childcare practitioner. She is working hard to achieve her Level 3 qualification and progressing very well. In her spare time she enjoys cooking lots of different recipes and trying all different foods from around the world.



Erzsabet Langridge - Level 3 Practitioner

Erzsabet was, for many years, a childminder and so has bags of experience. She works happily in all of the rooms, where her lively, fun personality and strong work ethic is appreciated. She has been a girl guide leader for the past 10 years. She loves to sing songs round the camp fire, play silly games and tell jokes!

Meet the Team cont.



Liz Piggott - NNEB Nursery Practitioner
Liz has worked with children for 45 years. Once she retired she realised how much she missed working alongside children and so now we are lucky to have her with us on a part-time basis. Liz enjoys gardening and reading. She also loves animals, especially her handsome cat 'Mr George'.



Alicia Waldock - Level 2 Practitioner
A part-time member of the team, Alicia is a great help in whatever room she is asked to work and is always welcomed by the children. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and also likes to volunteer for local charities.



Katrina Raymont - Nursery Cook
Katrina has one of the most important jobs in the Nursery - keeping all our little people well fed! This she does brilliantly, with her food always going down a treat. In her spare time she likes long walks, bike rides and spending time in her garden.



Alex Reed - Housekeeper
Alex plays a vital role as Housekeeper, ensuring that the Practitioner's have everything they need for the children. She also ensures the Nursey is clean and tidy at all times. Alex loves to travel and enjoys shopping trips, as well as knitting and swimming.