

The Wendy House **Shingay**



April Newsletter 2019



With Easter fast approaching (along with the school holidays) please can we ask that if you have any holidays planned that you inform the Nursery. This helps us to plan not only for catering purposes but also staff training and to ensure the children get to take home their Easter craft and goodies.

Easter Opening Hours

The Nursery will close at 6.15 pm on Thursday 18th April, re-opening at 7.45 am on Tuesday 23rd April.

Please ensure you make a note of these dates.



As you will all be aware, April sees the introduction of our new fee schedule. As a result, invoices were sent out early to assist you with altering your standing orders and voucher/TFC payments. Please can you ensure that all payments are amended to allow for the change in fees for both the fee increase and new claimants of Early Years Funding.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Additional spaces and incentives

The opening of the Willow Barn has generated a number of opportunities for families wanting to take up additional days. We are now in a position to extend this offer to existing Daisy and Sunflower parents. Please speak to Michelle directly if you are considering increasing your child's attendance or for further information.

Each year, with many children leaving for pastures new, we have additional places available in both the Sunflower room and Willow Barn.

Why not recommend a friend and if they book in we will deduct £50 from your fees once they have started the Nursery.

Congratulations Sharon and Dawn!

We are sure you will all like to join us in congratulating Sharon and Dawn, who recently celebrated 15 and 10 years service respectively with The Wendy House.

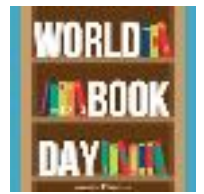
Both have been an integral part of the success of the Nursery and we would like to offer a heartfelt thank you for their loyal service and exemplary conduct during this period.



Easter and spring

We love Easter and spring at The Wendy House with them being among our favourite festivals and seasons. They present such wonderful opportunities for the children to learn, explore and develop their understanding of the world and witness new life, through seeing the blossom of the trees and the first leaves appearing, to smelling the freshly cut grass, seeing the rabbits leaping around and hearing birds in full song.





World Book Day

We all loved sharing our favourite stories as part of 'World Book Day' and it was great that so many of the children brought in their books to show their friends and allow others to share the joy they bring. The books varied from pop-ups stories, to hidden pictures behind flaps, textured books for the children to feel using hands and fingers and wonderful stories the children could join in with, clapping and waving.

Thank you for bringing in your child's favourite books to share!

Shrove Tuesday

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with lots of pancake fun!

All of the children got involved in the fun, from making pancake collages in the Nursery, to mud pancakes in and around the cabin and pancake café role-play.

We had so much fun throughout the day and the older children particularly enjoyed the pancake races in the afternoon followed by the whole Nursery tucking into delicious homemade pancakes that Dawn prepared for us all - yum yum!



Holi Festival

We had a colourful day celebrating Holi, with all of the children getting into the festival spirit by creating colourful collages, artwork and displays. We created splatter paintings, which caused much excitement as the paint was flicked creating various sized splodges and patterns as it dripped and ran down the paper.

We have also enjoyed exploring a wide range of colours, whilst participating in spray bottle painting and throwing powder paint which was the highlight of the day!

The children had a great time and truly rejoiced in the positivity that this festival promotes, celebrating the love and respect we have for each other.



The Wendy House Conservation activities

World Wildlife Day...

'World Wildlife Day' fits perfectly with our own ethos and was a great opportunity for the children to get out and about and celebrate the great outdoors.

We took part in numerous activities that looked at the different sounds animals make and went on nature walks to look for insects and birds. It also gave us an opportunity to discuss our surroundings and whom we share our wonderful grounds with. We had some rather imaginative answers but the beauty of being outside so often means we are never too far away from our neighbours, as the birds and rabbits paid us a visit. We also got a glimpse of a fox and deer on our night vision camera, much to the excitement of the children! We also took time to check in on our smallest friends as we carefully moved the logs to see how the insects were doing!

For our younger children, they still went exploring, stopping at the allotment to dig and move around the soil hoping to spot some wriggly worms and beetles – a messy yet fun sensory experience!



World Forestry Day...

During 'World Forestry Day' we explored trees, touching and hugging them to feel their different textures and seeing what creatures we could find on them. All the children walked around finding lots of different sticks and bringing them back to the Cabin along with the bark and leaves, which were placed in the treasure tray along with some small world Creepy Crawlies which created a fun and imaginative game.

The children also enjoyed counting trees, studying the different sized buds on the branches and predicting how big the leaves would be and their colours. We also spent time looking high into the trees for bird's nests as we discussed all the birds that could use the trees for their homes. Many of the children also commented how strong the trees are having withstood the recent high winds.



Fun and games inside and out!





News from the Rooms...

Bluebells

The children sat on the floor using their hands as well as spades and forks, making marks in the brown rice, grasping the rice with hands and dropping it on the floor around them. They felt the texture and listened to the sounds the rice made when using tools to move it around the tray. One of the activities they enjoyed was playing with the 'Small World' in the garden, exploring a variety of different sized horses as well as playing with the wooden house. The children sat together along with Jaydan and Lisa, putting the horses in the house and taking them out again, babbling away as they did so. We also looked at animal flash cards and the children were encouraged to make sounds and noises. The noisy cars were placed on the floor with a small wooden ramp and the child sat opposite each other, as they rolled the cars down the ramp which was great fun and made everyone laugh and squeal!

The children sat with Lisa using cardboard tubes, which had been cut as flowers and leaves to make daffodil pictures. They mimicked Lisa's actions, dipping the tube into the paint before dabbing it on to the paper. Jaydan sat opposite the children, helping them to open and close doors on the activity cube. In the shredded paper tray Lisa hid lots of different sized chickens, hens and dogs under the paper whilst the children stood and sat around the tray dropping the paper on the floor, laughing and babbling when finding the animals giggling away when Lisa dropped the paper above their heads. The children enjoyed crawling through tunnels and tents down in the Soft Play room, balancing and walking across the soft blocks with Jaydan and Lisa's help, sitting and kicking the balls as well as leaning into the ball pool. The children loved taking out and dropping the balls on the floor, laughing when Jaydan was trying to get them to throw the balls back in!

Conservation cabin

The children enjoyed exploring all the different textures inside and outside the cabin, using the different tools inside the wooden treasure basket and emptying the boxes full of bark shapes. Lisa took the walkers along the boardwalk, looking at the different plants and seeing the birds in the sky. The non-walking Bluebells were able to crawl and pull themselves up to stand, looking through the railings along with adult support. When outside the children saw some black sheep in the field and during the day the sheep decided to escape and run around the Nursery grounds! Later on the children were given shakers and bells to use when sitting together at the table, they were encouraged to use them when hearing '*Baa Baa Black Sheep*', '*5 Little Monkeys*' and '*Jelly on the Plate*'. The children were helped to use their hands and a paintbrush to paint a black sheep. Lisa helped the children to stick on his legs and head using their finger and thumbs to hold the card.

Hello and Goodbye

We would like offer a warm welcome to Isla and Florence who join us in the Bluebell room this month. We also say farewell to Oliver, Otilie and Dash who make the short journey to the Poppy room – we hope you all have a great time!

Poppies

March started with the Poppies making dens for us to pretend to camp in. We hid underneath them playing peekaboo with Annie, Michael and Alexandra. We used different materials to build them like ropes and a blanket. The Poppies helped by holding the blanket up and getting sticks to help make it and enjoying playing hide-and-seek. We were trying to understand that things still exist when out of sight. The Poppies had lots of fun shouting "Peek-a-boo" when jumping out from behind the material – lots of fun! This evolved into using some of our ICT toys as well as putting together puzzles where we concentrated hard whilst working out which pieces went where. When the animal puzzle had all been assembled we all had fun making the different noises for each animal.

Using the aqua mat to practice making marks, the Poppies used paintbrushes and their hands to move the water around the mat. The Poppies found it fun to paint their own hands with the water then shout "Wet", showing the adults. They also had a lot of fun looking at themselves in the mirror, which led to them pulling different expressions like happy and sad. They also enjoyed pointing out their different body parts in the mirror like their eyes, nose and ears. From this we decided to play 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'. We also enjoyed music time with everyone having fun dancing to 'Wind the bobbin up' – we saw some lovely 'winding' and engagement.

Conservation Cabin

The Poppies have been making dens using sticks, rope and blankets, working together to tie them things together and hiding underneath them. Annie moved the big cushions outside so the children could lie down and listen to the birds outside of the den. They also climbed on the stepping-stones, practicing getting up and down stairs without much support from an adult or peer. They enjoyed pushing the stepping-stones around to make different structures for them to climb on. We also had racing games, running from one spot at the cabin, calling out numbers by saying "One, two, three, go", then running to a familiar adult on the other side of the grass. We held our friends hands to help them get from one spot to the other – great teamwork Poppies!

Hello and Goodbye

We would like to say a big hello to Oliver, Otilie and Dash who will be joining us from the Bluebell room - we hope you continue to have a fantastic time with us. We also have to say a sad goodbye to Julian and Amilia who are making their way to the Daisy room – have fun guys!

Daisies

In the month of March the Daisy room showed a particular fascination for tigers participating in a tiger hunt in our Nature Maze. We were very shocked when we looked under our hedgehog homes during the tiger hunt and found a little harvest mouse in its own nest of dried grass. We were all very quiet and careful to make sure that we did not disturb it. During the tiger hunt activity we discussed what tigers eat and what their favourite foods might be and this linked on to us feeding tigers during role-play. We created a wide range of different meals for the tigers. One Daisy observed the tigers were eating all of the food like the *'Tiger who came to tea'*. The Daisies listened intently to the adult reading the story and joining in at the key points to ask, "Can we eat cake?" We then used a wide range of tools and equipment demonstrating our preference of dominant hand, mixing ingredients together to create and make our own cake. We enjoyed using our senses to smell each of the ingredients. We were then able to eat our cake the next day once it had set in the fridge. The Daisies enjoyed reflecting and talking about how the cake had been made the day before.

Lots of our Daisies enjoyed trips to local farms looking at the young farm animals. We enjoyed using our small world farms to encourage the children to share their experiences and what they saw whilst out and about with their families. We also looked closely at a pop up farm book turning pages independently in small groups and naming the individual animals and creating their sounds. The children observed on one page there were two cows. Following on from this we created a farm animal matching pairs game looking closely at the animals to ensure they were the same. We then explored sounds and used an ICT farm puzzle to develop fine motor skills before talking about the textures of the puzzle pieces. The children then looked at the *'That's not my monkey'* book feeling the different textures on each page.

We enjoyed a whole week of looking at the life cycle of a frog looking at the book *'Growing a frog'*. We became fascinated with the jelly-like frogspawn the frogs lay. We used chia seeds and water to create our own frog spawn messy play and loved squeezing the slimy balls between our fingers and watching them cluster together on our hands. We then explored different species of frogs, playing with a small world pond and rain forest scene. We showed a particular interest in looking for frogspawn and squeezing water out of the pond moss. We used our natural ponds near the Conservation Cabin to go exploring looking for our own frogspawn, unfortunately none could be found so we created our own sponge print frogspawn pictures. During the activity Robyn observed they look like chickens eggs and shared tales of her collecting eggs at her Grandad's barn. We then used an egg and vinegar to create our own see through egg without having to break it open. The vinegar also made the eggshell soft and rubbery and we were able to bounce it on the table.

Conservation Cabin

The mild weather has meant lots of flowers have bloomed early and a wide variety of insects and bugs can already be seen. We have also enjoyed trips to the allotment, digging up some weeds and finding worms in the large planters. These came in very handy when we created our own wormery so we could closely observe what worms do when under the soil and look at the tunnels they create. We enjoyed observing lambs in the field next to the Nursery, counting how many of each colour there were and how many babies. It was very entertaining when the sheep came to visit the Nursery and we enjoyed looking out of the window at the sheep in the car park!

Hello and Goodbye

We have to say a sad goodbye to Robyn and Oliver this month as they are making their way through the gate to the Sunflower room - we hope you have a fantastic time and enjoy Wendy Wood! We would like to welcome Julian, Amilia, Olivia and Duncan who join us in the Daisy room - we can't wait to show you all the fun we get up to!

Sunflowers

This month the Sunflower's have been talking about wild animals. The Sunflower's wanted to use the toy wild animals to make marks in the sand, it was very interesting because some footprints were big and some were very small. They thought that an elephant would leave a big footprint and a giraffe would leave a small foot print because their feet vary in size. The Sunflower's then trialled their ideas and they were right!

This sparked the Sunflower's interest in seeing what marks can be made in sand and they cleverly used different tools to make various marks. They enjoyed using their senses to explore the sand, saying that it felt "soft" and "scratchy". Tina showed the children how we can make animal footprints by pressing our fists in the sand.

One of the children noticed that the marks on the elephant looked like wrinkles. The children looked at animal magazines and found some pictures of elephants. They noticed that elephants have got lots of wrinkles all over their body. The Sunflower's compared marks on all different kinds of animal's fur and skin and noticed that there are lots of different patterns. They took part in a mark making activity whereby they chose various coloured crayons and carefully drew the patterns of their favourite wild animal. They noticed that the animals had lots of different colours in their patterns. The Sunflower's were set a new challenge when a wide selection of wild animals were placed on the table and they had to carefully look at the animal and match it to the correct colour.

The week began with Darcey bringing in her book '*Ten fat sausages*' to share with her friends. The Sunflower's all enjoyed this funny story and had a go at counting the sausages as we went through the story. This led on to a range of number and counting activities. We spent some time threading beads onto string, practicing counting in sequence. The children also did a colour and shape matching game and were keen to count how many sides each of the shapes had. We also used the number flashcards to help with number recognition whilst counting out the correct amount of objects to match each number.

The Sunflower's have also been learning about farms. We looked at the book '*Animals on the farm*' in detail and the children discussed the animals in the book with interest. The children took turns telling Chloe and Tina the sounds that the different animals make and this led onto a conversation about the names of baby farm animals. The Sunflower's then enjoyed a picture matching activity, matching baby animals to their parents. They also had fun exploring the small world farmyard and using the animals to make marks, pressing their feet into paint then onto paper.

Conservation cabin

At the Conservation Cabin we continued the farm and insect theme. The children gave the muddy toy farm animals a bubble bath! They were interested to see the effect that the water and bubbles had when mixed with the mud and enjoyed rinsing them clean under the water tap! The Sunflower's also spent lots of time digging up soil using spades and burying the large toy insects beneath.

Hello

We would like to welcome Robyn and Oliver who are joining us from the Daisy room and also Millie who has recently started with us. We hope you have a great time with us in the Sunflower room and don't forget your wellington boots for Wendy Wood!

Willows

Week 1 – W/C 4th March

Many of the Willows have visited the dentist for pre-school check-ups so we looked at flashcards of people who help us and spoke about the role each one plays. We matched up scenarios to the people who help us i.e. lost – police officer, crossing the road - lollipop person. We then went on to sorting the equipment each person would need to do their jobs i.e. police officers – handcuffs and fast cars. We went on to dress up in a variety of roles including Jack giving everyone check ups in his role as a nurse. At the craft table we made our own fire engines and emergency vehicles cutting and arranging a variety of shapes.



Week 2 – W/C 8th March

Many children have been visiting the new supermarkets that have been built in the local community, so we looked at a book called 'Shopping around the world' and we matched a variety of items to the shops you can buy things from. Many children were able to recall their experiences visiting card shops to buy cards for the people who are special to them. Lauren brought in a range of birthday cards for us to look at and the Willow's commented on the shapes, colours and numbers they could see. This inspired us to go on a number hunt around the Nursery grounds locating numbers on the Willow Barn, staff cars and on the signs for the Nursery.

Week 3 – W/C 15th March

This week we looked at insects and bugs. We were able to look at a range of non-fiction books and learnt many facts about bugs. We then went on a bug hunt and tallied up each bug we found and we were surprised to find out the most popular bug was the woodlouse! We then went on to drawing our favourite bugs showing Lauren our mark making skills. Insects that fly were a popular choice and we now have many dragonflies and butterflies on our free art wall. We looked at habitats and discussed where each type of bug chooses to make their home. Many of the children commented on that if they can't find a home, they might like to use a bug hotel. We set about using a range of materials putting our engineering and mathematical skills to balance and arrange the pieces to form houses.



Conservation Cabin

George H brought in a variety of fossils and bones he had found in his garden and all the Willows enjoyed looking at them, getting a closer look with the microscope and magnifying glasses. It inspired us to all go on a 'treasure hunt' and see what we could find. The Willows were amazed when they found a variety of bones amongst the tree stumps at the bottom of the Nature Maze. We spoke about how they might have come to be there and we all thought that maybe a bird had dropped them down as we often see a Buzzard flying in this area.



Den Building

Our time at the Conservation Cabin largely centred around making dens, with Emily teaching us how to tie knots and use different materials to make a variety of shelters.



Wendy Wood

This month in the wood we have extended our work on fossils. We also dug many holes using sticks and trowels. One of our holes was so big that the children enjoyed sitting in it pretending to hide. We were careful to make sure that we re-filled the hole when we had finished playing.



World Book Day

We shared a wide variety of books during 'World Book Day'. All books had a different theme – some made us laugh and some made us feel loved. Titles included – 'I love my Daddy' (Max), 'Your called a what?' (Elodie), 'Peppa Pig's Birthday' (Harrison), and 'The jolly postman' (Annika).

We drew pictures of our favourite story characters on the white boards. Eleanor drew Humpty Dumpty.



Great British Spring Clean / World Wildlife Day

We checked the pond and Nursery grounds to ensure that the animal habitats were safe. The children were concerned about the amount of rubbish we could see in the grounds so on our next trip out we went armed with a bag to collect up all the rubbish we could find and took part in the spring clean.



Shrove Tuesday

The children had a great day making pancakes, sharing stories about their past experiences and decorating their pancakes with fruit.

We also enjoyed learning about pancakes from around the world and the true meaning using a PowerPoint display on the computer.





Science

Milk Experiment – The Willows explored milk, adding in food colouring stirring it to change colour. The children were intrigued by what happened when dish soap was added and the reaction and effect this made causing the colours to separate, again leaving swirls.

We also extended our favourite activity – ‘Volcanoes’ by adding food colouring and dish soap the children were amazed when streaks of blue came out with the “fizzy stuff”!

