

Blue Bell Woods Newsletter

December 2019

What have we been learning at Blue Bell Woods?

We have been sharing a range of books together- favourites at the moment are 'Stick Man' and 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson.



Supporting Learning at home...

Sharing books is a wonderful way to help your child learn to talk, and it's the ideal opportunity to share a cuddle at the same time.

- Find a quiet place. Turn off the TV or radio so there are no distractions.
 - As well as reading the story, talk about the pictures. If there's a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know.
 - Give your child time to respond to your chatter.
 - Don't put any pressure on your child to name the pictures, but if she copies your words, praise her and say the words again for her.
 - Visit your library for different books – it's free to join.
 - Don't read for too long. Young children get bored quickly so little and often is best.
 - Let other grown-ups – grandparents, carers and older brothers and sisters – join in too.
 - It's good to share favourite books again and again.
- Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear.
- Remember, you're not teaching your child to read. You learn to talk a long time before you learn to read, and book sharing is a wonderful way to help your child's language development.



A Walk to the Woods!

We went on a sensory walk to the woods and collected lots of natural objects. William remembered that we found leaves, sticks and twigs, and that we put the sticks into the river! We also spent time listening to the different woodland sounds.



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We have been investigating different painting techniques, and made some fantastic representations of fireworks. We also created poppies and made a window display to learn about Remembrance Day.



Links to the EYFS:- Physical Development: 16-26 months: Makes connections between their movement and the marks they make, 40-60 months: Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials. Understanding the world: 40-60 months: Enjoys joining in with family customs and routines. Expressive Arts and Design: 30-50 months: Explores colour and how colours can be changed.

Wonderful Woodwork!

We have been exploring risk and challenge in our woodwork area.

Woodwork supports children to learn effectively:-

Playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.



Links to the EYFS:

Moving and Handling: Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials. Handles tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.

Health and Self-Care: Shows understanding of the need for safety when tackling new challenges, and considers and manages some risks.

Self Confidence and Awareness: Can select and use activities and resources with help. Shows confidence in asking adults for help.

Media and Materials: Uses simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately. Selects appropriate resources and adapts work where necessary. Selects tools and techniques needed to shape, assemble and join materials they are using.

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We had been experimenting with a range of musical instruments- including drums, guitars, keyboards and percussion instruments. A great deal of research has been carried out with regards to musical activity and the brain and it is now evident that music-making, singing and dancing aids the general development and well-being of very young children. Regular musical activity, both child-led and adult-led can help support children's acquisition of language and communication. It can aid their personal and social development, their physical agility, well-being, imagination and creativity.



Supporting Learning at Home

Please take a look at our [website](#) to see some of our favourite songs which you might like to sing at home together. We hope you will join us at our forthcoming festive family events where we will be singing carols and Christmas songs.

Festive Family Fun!

Wednesday 18th
December or
Friday 20th December

4.15pm - 5.00pm

Join us for Christmas crafts,
music and refreshments.



Donations to our charity
"Friends of Messes"
will be gratefully received.

Safeguarding at Blue Bell Woods:

If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of any child, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Leads, (Nerys or Julie) in confidence. There is further Safeguarding information on our [website](#) and paper copies are available on request.



Nerys Evans



Julie Alsop



Blue Bell Woods Festive Events 2019

Festive Family Fun

Wednesday 18th December- 4.15-5pm

Friday 20th December- 4.15-5pm

Families are invited to join us for Christmas crafts, music and refreshments. Please let us know if you can attend.

Over Twos Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday 17th December 2019: 11am-1pm

The over twos will be celebrating Christmas with party games and a festive party lunch. Children who do not usually attend on Tuesday mornings have received an invitation. Due to space, we request that families DO NOT attend the party please.

Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 18th December 2019

Contributions to our chosen charity, 'Friends of Messes' will be greatly received.

Christmas Dinner

Friday 20th December 2019

We will be providing a Christmas dinner for children attending on the day.

All dietary needs will be catered for as usual.

Christmas Eve (Nursery closes at 4.30pm)

Tuesday 24th December 2019

If your child will not be in nursery on Christmas Eve, please let us know so that we can adjust our catering arrangements. Thank you.

Christmas Break

We reopen after our Christmas break at 7.45am on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

The Spring Term begins on Monday 6th January 2020.