

Blue Bell Woods Newsletter

February 2017

What are we learning at Blue Bell Woods?

We have had an exciting time learning about Chinese New Year. We enjoyed food tasting, sampling noodles and prawn crackers at snack time. We painted 3D Chinese lanterns and learnt how to say, “Gong Hey Fat Choy” ~ which means Happy New Year in Cantonese. We looked at Chinese writing and used different media to make our own representations.



Reading, 40-60 months~ Knows that information can be retrieved from books and computers.
Writing, 30-50 months ~ Sometimes gives meaning to marks as they draw and paint.
People and communities, 30-50 months ~ Shows interest in different occupations and ways of life.

British Values

Learning about different customs and cultures helps to promote ‘British Values’ in the nursery. According to Ofsted, ‘fundamental British values’ are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith



We embed British Values throughout the nursery, by teaching children to be kind to others, to follow rules and respect boundaries, and through exploring different faiths and beliefs.

Security

Please can we remind parents not to let themselves out of the building unaccompanied, and not to let other parents in. Please always ask a member of staff to lock the door when you leave nursery to ensure the safety and security of the children.

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Following on from our food tasting fun, we then had the opportunity to taste a range of different foods and flavours. A favourite was pomegranate!

Health and self-care, 16-26 months: Willing to try new food textures and tastes.



We have also been busy exploring with our senses. Art activities included printing, painting and sticking on foil and bubble wrap. We experimented with the foam, ice, 'slime' and cloud dough, describing their textures. As always, we suggest children do not wear their best clothes to nursery as we offer a range of messy play activities on a daily basis!



EYFS Links ~ Expressive Arts and Design: Media and materials:

8-20 months ~ Explores and experiments with a range of media through sensory exploration, and using whole body.

30-50 months ~ Explores colour and how colours can be changed.

40-60 months ~ Understands that different media can be combined to create new effects.

Family Books

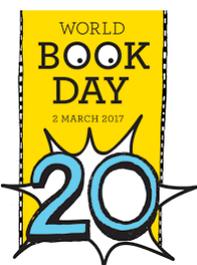
Thank you to the parents who have emailed in photographs for their child's Family Book. The children really benefit from looking at photographs and talking about the people, pets, festivals and objects that are special in their lives. We ask that you provide approximately five photographs with a brief comment which we can use to personalise your child's Family Book.

People and communities: 16-26 months ~ Enjoys pictures and stories about themselves, their families and other people. 30-50 months ~ Recognises and describes special times or events for family or friends.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March; children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character. Families are warmly invited to visit us at any time during the week to share a book with a small group of children. Please contact us if you are able to take part.

We will also be distributing Book Tokens which are valid until 26th March 2017.



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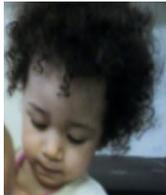
Happy Birthday! The following children are celebrating birthdays in February...



Alice (2)



Daniel (2)



Tavayah (2)

Dates for your Diary

- w/b 20th February 2017 - Half Term (no funded sessions)
- Thursday 2nd March 2017 - World Book Day – Fancy Dress optional
- Thursday 2nd March 2017 - Parents Evening

Family Partnership

Learning Journeys

At the end of each half term, we email you your child's Learning Journey, sharing observations and photographs of your child's progress and ideas for next steps to support their development. Parents are invited to contribute to the Learning Journey by providing photographs/ videos from home of any particular interests, events or milestones achieved. You can simply email your comments and photographs to the nursery so these can be added in to the Learning Journey.

Parents Evening

We will be holding an informal parents evening on Thursday 2nd March 2017 from 6pm-7.30pm. This is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's learning and development with their Key Person, socialise with other parents and look at the children's work and photographs displayed around the nursery. We ask that children do not attend this event; refreshments will be provided.

You are welcome to arrive any time from 6pm. The event will finish at 7.30pm. We will be putting up appointment grids in the nursery shortly for parents who would like to book a ten minute slot with their child's Key Person.

Family Stay and Play

Thank you to the families who joined us for our Valentines themed Stay and Play session. The parents and children made a collaborative heart collage, baked and iced biscuits and used heart shaped tools in the dough and paint.



Staff News: This month, we say goodbye to Bev Booth and Lisa Morris who have both secured employment much closer to their homes. We would like to thank Bev and Lisa for their contribution to the nursery and we wish them well for the future.