

Blue Bell Woods Newsletter

July 2016

What are we learning at Blue Bell Woods?

We have been exploring a range of water play activities both inside and out...

Physical skills are developed as water play promotes use of both large and small muscles as well as the skills needed to coordinate eye and hand movements. Children use large muscles as they lift buckets and wield big sponges while they fill, empty, and clean up the water area. Hand-eye coordination is practiced as children retrieve objects with tongs, aquarium nets, scoops, and fingers. Hand whisks, basting bulbs, and egg beaters require coordination and are fun to use.

Small muscles get a workout as plastic tubes are fitted to funnels, medicine droppers are manipulated, water is poured from container to container, squeeze bottles are explored, and sponges are wrung dry.



When children play, they use and learn language naturally. Words such as sieve, funnel, surface, whip, flow, slot and strain enrich young children's vocabulary and allow them to express themselves more explicitly. Positional words (beside, above, next to) and words that express relationships (larger, smaller, last) grow naturally out of water-play experiences. Children learning English as a second language particularly benefit from the language interaction that flows when children work either together or side by side.

Growing in our Forest Garden!

We are busy growing all manner of vegetables in our Forest Garden. The children have been fascinated to see the change as the vegetables grew, and excited to pick the produce to give to Sonia to cook at lunch time. Runner beans on the menu today!



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A Fond Farewell

We were delighted to welcome so many children to our recent Pre-School Graduation Party. The children enjoyed a picnic lunch, and took part in parachute games, singing and celebrations.



Nerys and all the staff were overwhelmed by the amount of cards, gifts, flowers and chocolates we received from the Pre-School leavers and their families; thank you for your generosity. We would like to wish all the children who are leaving us every success in the future and we hope you will all keep in touch!



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Happy Birthday!

The following children are celebrating birthdays in July...



Oliver (1) Jessica (2) Joseph (2) Naman (2) Toby (2) Aliya (3) Scarlet (4) Kara (5)

Stay well this summer - top tips for travel

It's that time of year where thousands of families prepare to set off for their holidays in the UK and abroad. To help minimise the risk of children and parents acquiring infections on holiday, Warwickshire County Council would like to remind you of some simple tips to avoid illnesses such as diarrhoea over the summer months.



FEEL WELL THIS SUMMER

1

In hot summer weather **stay out of the sun**, particularly between 11am and 3pm, wear a **hat** and light clothing to cover up, and use **sunscreen** of at least Factor 15.

2

Avoid strenuous activity and remember to drink plenty of water and avoid excess alcohol, caffeine and hot drinks.

3

Ensure **food is not left out** in warmer weather, and that it is **cooked thoroughly** at a barbecue to avoid food poisoning.

4

If you're planning to travel outside the UK, **seek travel advice** at www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/country-information. You may also need to be **vaccinated** against infections you may come into contact with while travelling.

5

Be a **good neighbour** and look after those who may need a helping hand in hot weather, such as the very old, the very young and people with chronic conditions.

6

Choose Well and use the correct health service, at the right time.

For more summer advice, visit www.nhs.uk/summerhealth



STAY WELL

Hundreds of people spend hours at Accident and Emergency departments each week for minor illnesses and ailments when other services would have been more appropriate.

Did you know there are a range of NHS services on your doorstep?

Self Care

NHS 111

Pharmacy

GP

Walk-in and Urgent Care Centres

A&E and 999 services are for life-threatening and emergency conditions only.

Accident and Emergency

Visit www.nhs.uk or call 111 for advice on which local health service can best offer the care you need.

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Staff News

Congratulations Steph!

We are delighted to announce that Stephanie McKee has now qualified as a Time to Talk Champion. She will be working alongside Marie, our Consultant Time to Talk Champion, to support the language and communication development of our children. Steph is now qualified to screen children, and in consultation with families, make referrals to other professionals regarding any concerns over children's speech.

Welcome Becca and Lisa

We would like to welcome Rebecca Gibson to the nursery. Becca is a Level 3 qualified, experienced Nursery Nurse. She joins Caroline, Sarah, Bev and Rachel in our Baby Unit. Emma Metcalfe has now moved on to pastures new so we wish her every success for the future.

We are sorry to inform you that Linda Weaver has had to leave the nursery due to personal family circumstances; we welcome Lisa Harrison to the Over 2s Room. Lisa is Level 3 qualified and has been working in early years for numerous years.



Becca



Lisa

Congratulations Natalie!

Some lovely news- Natalie is expecting a baby boy! She will be starting her Maternity Leave in the Autumn Term, and we look forward to her return next year.

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing some more new members of staff as numbers are growing! We will also be allocating Key Groups and will keep you fully informed if there are any changes to your child's Key Person.

Learning Journeys- Please Be Involved!

Nursery staff use tablets to take photographs and record observations "on the go". These are collated on a secure website and emailed across to families following each Half Term.

Please feel free to add to your child's Learning Journey to support their assessment cycle. You can reply directly to the emailed reports we send or email bluebellwoodsdaynursery@hotmail.co.uk. You can even attach photographs and videos! Please tell us about what your child is currently interested in, any family/ religious/ cultural celebrations, their achievements at home etc. This is a great way to support your child's Key Person to plan meaningful and interesting experiences for your child that support their learning and development.