

# Blue Bell Woods Newsletter

## April 2018

### What are we learning at Blue Bell Woods?

In Pre-school we have been learning about number concepts using the Numicon system. We have also been learning about numbers and counting using Pirate themed activities. In the 2-3 year old groups we have been learning about growing and different types of vegetables. We developed a market in the role play area so we could 'buy' vegetables from the market and we used our senses to explore them. We have also been having tea parties with our friends.



Links to the EYFS: PSED – 30-50 months - Keeps play going by responding to what others are saying or doing.

M – 40-60+ months - Counts up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item.

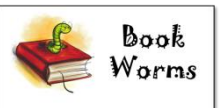
### Family Partnership:

We held a Parents Evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April and invited all families. Many thanks to those that managed to attend. We had a lovely evening with lots of positive conversations and many happy families! If you were unable to attend you can still talk to your child's key person at any time about any concerns or comments you have about their general development.

### Story sacks:

We have introduced a new resource for families to enjoy at home. Story sacks are a fantastic, yet simple resource for making books fun and bringing stories to life. Each sack is based on a story book and is full of fun and interesting resources to support parts of the story. The props in each story sack can be used to support the telling of the story and can then be used to re-create the story afterwards in the children's own words, allowing them to use their imagination to elaborate on what they have heard.

If you would like to borrow one of the story sacks, please use the signing out book which is located on the pegs in the lobby with the sacks. We hope you enjoy them.



### Dates for your Diary:

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday – Nursery closed
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday – Nursery closed
- Week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> May – Half term – no funded sessions

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**Mobile Library Service:** We have been using the mobile library service on a Wednesday afternoon. The three and four year olds have been going in small groups to borrow books which can be taken home and brought back again each week. The children have seemed very enthusiastic about using the mobile library and talk about their chosen book with their peers at group times when they return.



**Links to the EYFS:** Personal, Social and emotional Development 22-36 months - Expresses own preferences and interests. Literacy – Reading 30-50 months: Shows interest in illustrations and print in books and print in the environment.

Reminder: If you have received a link to our Parent Survey please do take a few minutes to complete it, all feedback is greatly received.



**Happy Birthday!**  
The following children are celebrating birthdays in April...

### Sun Safety

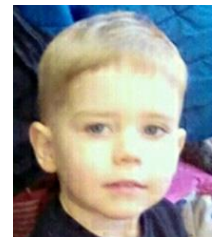
Please provide your child with a **NAMED sun hat** (to keep at nursery if possible).



Nursery will provide Nivea Factor 50 sun cream. If your child has a preferred brand please supply a bottle. Please note that if your child does not have a sun hat they will be unable to access the garden during very warm times. Thank you.



Noah (2)



Hughey (4)

### Garden update:

The outdoor area is starting to take shape now with our new enclosed space for small group activities. The children have made the most of the new area and are making suggestions of what activities/ resources they would like to use in there.

Our Forest Garden is looking fantastic, we have been using the tree stumps to sit on for singing and story times and we have planted lots of vegetables for the summer.

The new astroturf has made a big difference to the children as it is not so muddy and slippery outside now so they can enjoy their running games safely.



### Safeguarding at Blue Bell Woods:

In order to keep children safe and as part of our safeguarding ethos we encourage parents/ carers to have discussions with their children about their bodies and teach them the correct terminology for their body parts. The reason for this is that children who are able to correctly name parts of their bodies, including genitalia, are less likely to be targeted by abusers as the child would be able to tell someone exactly where they had been touched. All nursery and school settings are encouraged to use correct terminology with children when attending up to date Safeguarding training. The NSPCC have published a handy guide on how to approach sensitive subjects with children, and their Talk Pants guide is widely used in schools across the country. For more information you can use the following link to download full guidance <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/> alternatively you can find information on the nursery Safeguarding displays and on our website.



### Policy reminder:

As part of our commitment to Safeguarding, mobile phones and cameras must not be used in nursery. If you wish to use your mobile phone you must wait until you are outside or in the lobby. Please do not be offended if a member of staff asks you to use your mobile phone outside, it is for both the children's and your protection. Thank you.



### Gardening Club:

The children have been doing a fantastic job of getting the growing patch organised. They have planted our new seeds and plants and have had a good tidy up of the Forest Garden. Thank you to the parents that came to help us and for the very kind donation of plants. It is very much appreciated and has inspired the staff and children who have been coming up with fantastic ideas of how to further improve the area.



Links to the EYFS: Understanding the World: The World 22-36 months - Notices detailed features of objects in their environment. Understanding the World: The World 30-50 months - Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world. Understanding the World: The World 30-50 months: Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

