

What are we learning at Blue Bell Woods?

Thank you to the families that joined us for our recent Stay and Play session to celebrate Chinese New Year. Throughout the week, we have been learning about Chinese customs and traditions. We tasted Chinese food, designed a giant dragon, decorated lanterns, danced to Chinese music, and made our own representations of Chinese numbers and writing.

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

People and communities: 30-50 months: Shows interest in different occupations and ways of life.



Supporting learning at home

At Blue Bell Woods we promote British Values and offer a rich cultural capital. You can help to foster cultural empathy in your child at home...

Explore the world through books and poems

Books can be one of the simplest ways to broaden a world view, for children and adults alike. Multicultural books not only reflect different backgrounds and traditions, they also help your child discover new vocabulary and gather information about different places around the world. Take a look in our nursery library and borrow a book or story sack to share at home!

Encourage curiosity

It is likely that you have cultural resources right in your community that you can take advantage of. Pick a country and plan events (or even just a themed dinner) around experiencing that culture. Your child will enjoy helping you prepare food commonly eaten in that culture.

Spend time with friends

In our diverse society, many friends, family members and neighbours may have a different heritage to that of your child. Use this as an opportunity to teach your children that, while other people may do things differently, everyone deserves love and respect. Spending time with people who might be from different backgrounds enriches children's lives immensely.

Encourage your child to ask you questions

Try not to worry even if you feel like the question is difficult. There is no need to get embarrassed if your child asks why a person has different skin to them or wears different clothes, for example.

Instead of avoiding the question, you can explain that there are many different people in the world: some are black, some are white, some wear a turban, some speak a different language, some pray etc. By normalising cultural differences, you help children to feel even more connected to people who are different to them.

Be a role model

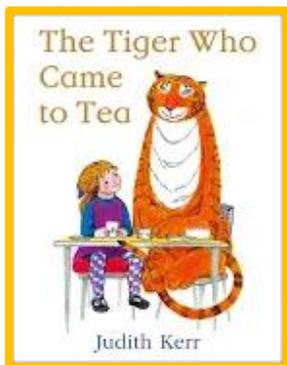
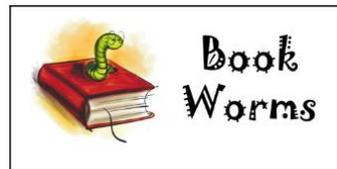
When you show respect and model to your child what kind, caring relationships look like—they will learn from your ongoing example. Talking about feelings is key to fostering understanding.

What are we learning at Blue Bell Woods?

We have been very busy creating our own interpretations of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', which is a favourite book in the nursery at the moment.

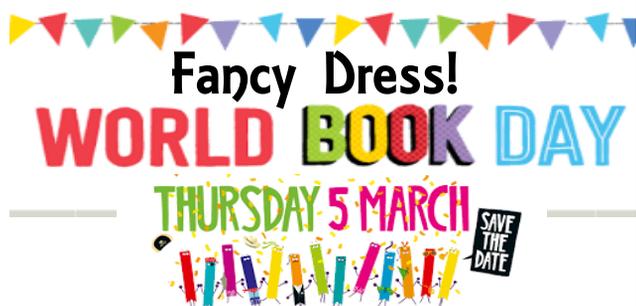
Links to the EYFS: Reading- 22-36 months: Has some favourite stories, rhymes, songs, poems or jingles.

Expressive Arts and Design- 40-60 months: Understands that different media can be combined to create new effects.



We had great fun re-enacting parts of the story together and taking turns to be the Tiger!

Links to the EYFS: Expressive Arts and Design- 40-60 months: Plays alongside other children who are engaged in the same theme. Plays cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a narrative.



To celebrate World Book Day, children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character on Thursday 5th March 2020. Families are warmly welcome to visit us at any time during the week to share a book with a small group of children. Please talk to a member of staff if you would like to join in.

What are we learning at Blue Bell Woods?

The babies have shown a great interest in the playdough recently. They have had fun rolling, squeezing, squashing, poking and pulling the dough- malleable play helps to develop fine motor skills, strengthens hand muscles and promotes hand-eye coordination. Links to the EYFS: Expressive Arts and Design- 8-20 months: Explores and experiments with a range of media through sensory exploration, and using whole body.

**Supporting learning at home**

Take a look at our [website](#) for a simple playdough recipe and ideas to extend learning through play with dough.

Family Partnership

Thank you to the families that joined us for our recent Parent Evening.

We hope you enjoyed celebrating your child's progress, learning and development.

If you were unable to attend and would like an appointment with your child's Key Person, we are happy to arrange this.

Observations will be emailed out in February half-term; please share your comments about your child's development with us.

Each child also has a paper Learning Journey which you can view at any time.



Mums, nans, aunts...any special ladies... are invited to join us for tea to celebrate Mothers' Day! Please let us know if you can attend.
Thank you.

Reminders

- Please inform the office of any changes to personal details to ensure our records are up to date.
 - Please name all your child's belongings, as many children have similar coats, hats, bags etc.
- Thank you.

Happy Birthday to children celebrating in February!



Ada(1)



Evalyn (2)



Sam (2)

- Half Term: w/b 17th February 2020 - term dates can be viewed on our [website](#)
- World Book Day- Fancy Dress Optional- Thursday 5th March 2020
- Mothers' Day Tea- Friday 20th March 2020