

## Happy New Year!

Nerys and the staff wish you a Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful Christmas break. We are delighted to welcome new children and their families to the nursery in 2026!

### Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S Responsibility

#### Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of any child, please talk to a **Designated Safeguarding Lead**, in confidence.

#### For more information...

[Safeguarding at Blue Bell Woods](#)

[Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

[Families First for Children](#)

Our Policies and Procedures can be viewed [here](#).

### Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)



**Taylor-Lee  
Sketchley  
Lead DSL**



**Rachel  
Porter  
Deputy DSL**



**Samantha  
Monino  
Deputy DSL**

Our DSLs receive robust safeguarding training to support staff to carry out their safeguarding duties.

# Thank you!

We would like to thank you for all the lovely cards and presents we received last term.

Thank you also for your generous donations on Christmas Jumper day- we raised **£136** for 'Save the Children'!





# Our Educational Programme

Many of our families recognise and observe the Christian faith and the belief in the birth of Jesus; we learnt about the religious and secular aspects of the Christmas festival.

Christmas traditions reflect British Values such as community and mutual respect.

We learnt about customs that bring people together during the festive season.

## British Values

Democracy

The rule of law

Individual liberty

Mutual respect and tolerance





# Food, glorious food!

The children enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner together and took part in food themed activities-creating 'Christmas puddings', making reindeer food and exploring our reindeer soup station!



Happy birthday to Eleanor, celebrating in January!

Due to Food and Nutrition guidance, unfortunately we are unable to share out birthday cake/ sweets on birthdays.

# Dates for your diary

## Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Spring Term begins

- ! Spring Term funding: Please act when you receive the link to complete your Spring funding Parental Declaration Form.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Deadline to apply for Reception place**  
Pre-School children applying for a Warwickshire school reception place for September 2026 can apply [here](#).

## w/b 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Half Term

No sessions for term-time only children. You may request additional sessions during half term, subject to availability. These are charged at our standard rate.

Sessions continue as usual for children who attend all year round.

## Health- reducing the spread of respiratory infections

This winter, we have seen a rise in respiratory infections and viruses. Guidance from the UK Health Security Agency states,

*If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to carry out normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one), or until you no longer feel unwell.*

**If your child is unwell, please keep them at home to help prevent their illness from spreading to others.**

At nursery, we continue to take the following actions to help reduce the spread of respiratory infections:

- Keeping the nursery well ventilated.
- Maintaining a robust cleaning schedule, paying attention to frequently touched surfaces.
- Practising good hygiene:
  - Encouraging children to cough into their bent elbow.
  - Using tissues and disposing of them immediately in the bin.
  - Ensuring children wash their hands frequently with warm water and soap.
- Keeping up-to-date with and sharing guidance from our Local Authority, the NHS and the UK Health Security Agency.



# Supporting Learning at Home

Sharing books is a wonderful way to help your child learn to talk. You're not teaching them to read; children learn to talk a long time before they learn to read, and book sharing is a wonderful way to help your child's language development!

- Find a quiet place. Turn off the TV 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 they copy your words, praise, and say the words again for them.
- Don't read for too long. Young children get bored quickly so little and often is best.
- Let other people join in– grandparents, carers and older siblings.
- It's good to share favourite books again and again!
- Repetition helps children to understand and remember language they hear.
- Share books in your home language.
- Read to your child face-to-face, rather than with your child sitting on your lap with their back turned to you:
  - Your child will see how your mouth is moving while you say the words, to help them learn how to say the words.
  - They can see your facial expressions, which will help them stay engaged, as well as have increased understanding and connection to the words and story.
  - You have a better view to see what your child is looking at in the pictures, so you can comment on what they are interested in.
- Visit a library for different books – it's free to join... or borrow a story sack from the nursery lobby!

