

Welcome to the first Nursery Newsletter of 2024 and Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a great Christmas. Thank you so much for all your good wishes and very kind gifts, they were much appreciated. The children settled back really well last week. It lovely to see the children and hear all about their Christmas. It was hard for a few to face the chilly mornings and leaving all their lovely new toys, but they soon got into the swing.

Before Christmas the children enjoyed sharing some Julia Donaldson books. Last Week we enjoyed sharing Stick Man and The Snail and the Whale. This book is useful for thinking about the messages the snail wrote. It can encourage talk about how useful being able to read is, and about letters having sounds that are useful for helping us read the words. This will make a useful link to our Read, Write, Inc. frieze we will be looking at this term to help us start to recognise the pictures on the letter sounds. Julia Donaldson's books are also great for working on rhyme, something else we will be focusing on this term.

We are hoping that many of the children will be inspired by the books we are using this term. We aim to develop a love of books, stories, language and reading in all children. One of the ways that we aim to do that is by using a bank of books and stories that the children become familiar and confident with. Please see more information about this below.

For the Spring Term we have a broad overarching topic entitled 'I Live Here!' Our topic is very flexible and next steps can be planned based on what we observe the children's interests and needs to be from week to week. As you have no doubt experienced young children have a natural desire to learn, explore and question. We aim to offer core provisions and an environment that enables them to do this, and we seek to capture the moment of engagement for each child. As careful observation is key, we spend much time engaged in observing the children and looking for opportunities to seize the moment when a child shows a level of interest and curiosity that can be drawn out and then enhanced and built upon. We will continue to support children to become independent in selecting and carrying out activities and enjoying the challenge of learning to do things for themselves. There is also a constant focus on developing relationships and reflecting on our experiences to help develop communication and language.

This term we will be talking about our homes and our addresses. It might be worth pointing out the number or name of your house, the name of the road etc. to help familiarise your child with their address so they are ready to talk about it in class. They may like to bring in a photograph or a picture they have drawn of their house or favourite room to talk about.

As always, we will focus on the world around us observing changes in seasons and the weather, observing Winter like weather over the next couple of months, and then the changes as we move into Spring.

Adult-led and child-initiated activities covering all areas of the Early Years curriculum will continue to take place both indoors and outdoors. So please ensure the children have (named) clothing appropriate to the English weather! Also, don't forget to consider if your child's feet have grown and if they may need new wellies.

Each term we send home a sample of observations using the 2simple, Evidence Me system via the email you have provided. These may contain a photograph, comment, and the areas of the Early Years Curriculum that are being covered by the activity. You will be receiving the Autumn term ones this week. If your email details have changed, please let us know.

For any parents who would like more information about the areas of the EYFS Curriculum, there is a useful publication on our website called [What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents](#)

If you do have any observations or things your child has achieved to share or if you have questions, or ideas please don't hesitate to get in touch nursery@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk

Don't forget school applications close today. I think everybody has done their application, so well remembered!

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy

Stories & Rhymes

In Nursery we have introduced a core bank of stories that we work on through the year. The books chosen are almost all very repetitive and rather like songs. This makes them easier for children to join in with so that the experience of reading becomes interactive, and the children begin to learn the story as they are read to. In each book there will be much to discuss so that the children understand the vocabulary as well as what is happening. All the books have pictures, which support the text but also compliment and add to it. It is important to discuss the pictures and what is happening in them as much as the text. After a while, the children will get to know each story word for word, which can give great confidence to early readers in terms of fluency when reading. Hopefully the children who have been at Nursery for a longer time will be more familiar with the books and will be even more confident and ready to further their learning. Alongside this reading list we will also share a selection of nursery rhymes, traditional tales, stories from other cultures, myths and legends, poetry, and non-fiction to ensure that your children are absorbed in a rich and varied reading culture; as well as sharing other books the children enjoy.

This term we will be enjoying the books: -

- **You Choose** Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt (Random House)
- **We're Going on a Bear Hunt** Michael Rosen (Walker Books)
- **Come on, Daisy!** Jane Simmons (Orchard Books)
- **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** Bill Martin Jnr and Eric Carle (Windmill Books)

Page turners including: -

- **Giraffes Can't Dance**
- **Cat in the Hat**

Fairy tales and classical tales: -

- **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**
- **The Three Little Pigs**
- **Very Simple Aesop's Tales: The Thirsty Crow**



Poetry including: -

- **Puffin Treasury**
- **Oxford Treasury of Nursery Rhymes**
- **Shark in the Park**

We will be learning the Nursery Rhymes: -

- **Old Mother Hubbard**
- **Baby Bunting**
- **Bo Peep**
- **Crooked Man**

Favourite Books

If your child has a favourite book, we would love for them to tell us all about it. This is a great way for your child to express their preferences and use talk as a powerful way of sharing their thoughts and feelings with others; as well as a great way for all the children to enjoy a range of books. If you would like to send a photo of your child holding their book to the nursery email, we can share it on the big screen. If it is a book that we are unlikely to have at nursery they might want to bring it in to share. Please ensure any books brought in have a name in, thank you.