

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a good week.

Our topic this term will continue to be '*I Live Here!*' However, our topic is very open, and we work towards a child-led approach. Last half term we looked at different kinds of homes around the world and started to introduce types of materials used to build homes. We will continue to think about different kinds of homes and will be encouraging the children to continue to look carefully at the world around them and learn to talk about what they see and experience.

We have focused on making sure everybody is familiar with number to five. We have been focussing on accurate 1:1 counting and recognising the corresponding numerals. We will continue to reinforce this and move on to 6. We will also be introducing height, length, weight, and capacity activities, and reinforcing work on shape, sorting, patterns, and ordering.

Whilst continuing to build children's phonological awareness through daily activities involving listening skills, rhyming and alliteration we will also become familiar with the characters on our sounds frieze. We will start to focus on teaching letter sounds during the Summer term, although this half term we will continue to work on identifying sounds in words. Don't forget this is something you can practise at home; you can play games like eye-spy using sounds instead of letter names. If you feel unsure about phonics, please do let us know, we are happy to offer support.

As usual activities covering all areas of the Early Years Curriculum will take place both indoors and outdoors. Children will be encouraged to use the outdoor area daily. The children are free to move between being indoors and outdoors as they choose. Please make sure that children always have appropriate clothing for the weather, thank you.

Hopefully many of the children will have had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. We will be talking about Lent being the time before Easter and will be looking at how people celebrate around the world. We will also be learning more about Spring in the coming weeks. We are hoping there will be lots of 'Spring like' weather coming our way as February comes to an end. We will be learning about Spring celebrations such as Chinese New Year, St David's Day, St Patrick's day, St George's day, Mothering Sunday and Easter. This year we will also learn about Naw-Rúz as this is something that is relevant to children at nursery. This is a new year festival that falls at the spring equinox and symbolises the new life of spring. If your family have any cultural or religious celebrations happening, we would love you to share those with us. Acknowledging special times for the children helps to develop a positive sense of self and others. It also helps children understand and value similarities and differences between individuals and groups within their community and helps form positive respectful relationships.

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day, we would like to celebrate by sharing our class book. Thank you for emailing photos of your child with a favourite book. If you still haven't sent yours in, please do, so everyone is in the book by World Book Day, thank you. Please send photos to nursery@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk

As you may have seen in the Woodstock Weekly there is no obligation to dress as a book character, but the children are welcome to if they want to. The theme for world Book Day this year is all about championing choice. Last year the children came in pyjamas or onesies for lots of cosy book time, which they seemed to enjoy, but it's up to you and your child. The newsletter states... *With an awareness of equality and inclusion, this will be optional, and we will invite all children to make the choice that best suits them: dress up or dress down, come as you are, wear what you like but come and celebrate with us.*

The book we will be introducing this week is *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* by Bill Martin Jnr and illustrated by Eric Carle.

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy