

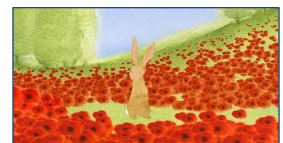
Last week we were thinking about things we might celebrate such as the birth of a new baby, a birthday, Diwali, Halloween, Bonfire night and Christmas. During half term as well as being Halloween it was Diwali, the five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. We used the idea of light in the darkness to introduce the children to our school motto, 'Let your light shine.' The children have been thinking about what is special about them and what they are good at for us to write on a special card candle they have painted and decorated to display.

These celebrations also link nicely with our theme of family and pets. Thank you for baby photos that were sent in last term. If the children would like to share pictures of their family or pets, they are welcome to bring them in to talk about or please feel free to send via email (nursery@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk) for them to share. Last week we shared *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell and *The Great Pet Sale* by Mick Inkpen. This week will enjoy *Hairy Mclary* stories.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be thinking more about linking the work we have been doing on feelings and emotions with the theme of friends. We will be talking about friendly behaviour and making friends, what we like about friends, why it is good to have friends, and how to be a good friend. We will read stories such as '*The Rainbow Fish*' by Marcus Pfister, '*Puffin Pete*' by Petr Horacek and other books that focus on friendship. These stories highlight some of the emotions involved in friendship. We will be linking with the school's Anti-Bullying Week that starts today, and we will celebrate **Odd Socks Day tomorrow** - an Anti-bullying Alliance initiative designed to be fun. It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! All children have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school, it couldn't be simpler!

Yesterday was Remembrance Sunday and today is Remembrance Day. Whilst teaching children about the significance of Remembrance Day and why people wear a poppy is not always an easy thing to do, we should attempt to give the children a simple explanation. The children are far too young to be exposed to the horrors of war, but we need to take first steps towards remembrance and respect. CBeebies has produced a short animation, simply titled, 'Poppies' to help convey the notion of Remembrance in a way that resonates with a young audience. It is a beautiful piece to watch, and we find it is a great way to introduce a discussion. The two-minute film depicts a bunny in a meadow that becomes a battlefield. The film is able to evoke feelings about war without any graphic visual depiction of war. It may be something you would like to watch with your child, if so, it is available on the CBeebies website.

Best wishes
Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy



ADMISSION TO SCHOOL

Primary School Place – You must apply now

The school application is now open, and you need to apply before January 15, 2025. You need to apply even though your child attends a school-based nursery. Applying on time is likely to maximise the chance of your children being offered a place at your preferred school. If the application is late, this is far less likely to happen.

We would advise families to apply online as it's quick, secure, easy and amendable. [Reception applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#) (You can contact the school admissions team on 0345 241 2487 for a paper application form.)

The online booklet 'Starting School' https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/starting-school/starting_school.pdf can help you find out more about the schools you may be considering and the process.

If you need any help with the process, please ask.

NURSERY RHYME WEEK

This week we will also be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week this week. Over 3 million children under 7 have taken part in World Nursery Rhyme Week in 70+ countries since its launch in 2013. Nursery rhymes play an important role in our children's early lives, particularly the development of crucial language and communication skills. Hopefully you can support the children at home with this. We have included information below about the Nursery Rhymes we will be learning this week. Singing nursery rhymes is a wonderful activity you can enjoy doing together at home and all the resources are available for you to download at: www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com

Our 'Rhyme a Day' challenge will focus on each rhyme in the following order:

Monday 11th November:

Twinkle Twinkle

Tuesday 12th November:

Old Macdonald

Wednesday 13th November:

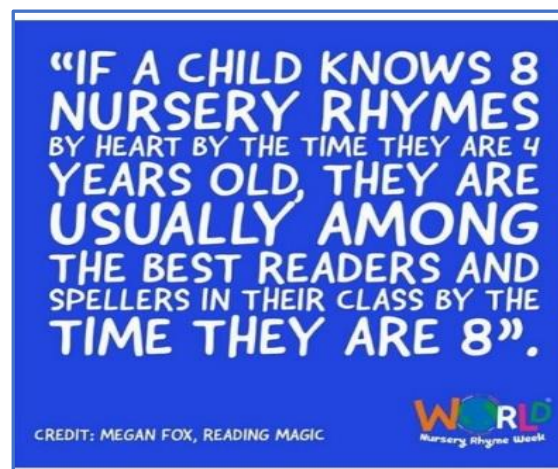
The Big Ship Sails

Thursday 14th November:

Incy Wincy Spider

Friday 15th November:

5 Currant Buns



CHILDREN IN NEED DAY- FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER

It is Children in Need Day, on **Friday 15 November**. There are more details in the Woodstock Weekly today. Children are invited to come in their pyjamas or something spotty. If the children could bring a donation to put in the Pudsey money box that would be great.



NATIVITY

Apologies, my last newsletter got the times of the Nativity performances the wrong way round. It should be: -

10th December - 14:00 – 15:00

11th December - 09:30 – 10:30