

Monthly Magpies

Historic Mystery:

You may have heard of Mulan, but did you know that she may have been a real person. A popular ancient ballad in China tells the story of Mulan, a legendary warrior who may or may not be a real person. Why not find out more about her for yourself? Make sure you have a grown help you to do this as there are many versions of the story and some might not be appropriate for children. You could write a poem about a hero of your own? Who would you pick?



Fun and Free:

January is Chinese new year, and there are many fun ways you could celebrate. Why not take a trip to London's China Town and see the amazing decorations? You could make your own using red and gold colours. Or, try making your own dragon mask. You could get some inspiration at:

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese-dragon-crafts>



Composer Central:

This month we are celebrating the music of David Bowie. His famous song, "Changes", was released in January 1971 and was famously covered in Shrek 2. David Bowie was an innovative performer and writer, who also acted in films. He grew up in Brixton and famously had eyes that were different colours. Why not listen to his song, and compare it to the shrek version. Which do you prefer? Why?

Original: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNfY091jDRs>

Shrek 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6xxgNTaiQs>



Love our Libraries:

This month we are celebrating the incredible books of Chris Riddell. Younger children might enjoy his picture books, such as The Emperor of Absurdia, while older children might like to look at his illustrations in J K Rowling's Tales of Beedle the Bard or his own books, such as the Ottoline series. Riddell is an illustrator as well as author; he has illustrated books by Neil Gaiman, Emma Fischel and many others.



Where we live:

Winnie the Pooh and Friends Weekend
Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 January

Join Honeywood in celebrating Pooh and his friends from 100 Acre Wood, with crafts, stories, and the Bees and Honey Pot Trail.
Drop in to the museum for FREE. Available during normal Museum opening hours.
Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Marvellous Mental Health:

After the Christmas holidays, we can feel a bit deflated and sad as we think on how long it will be before we have another break, or another opportunity to spend time with family.

Why not make a list of all the amazing things that happened over your break, and all the things you are looking forward to this term?

**Awesome Artist:**

Berthe Morisot (January 14, 1841 – March 2, 1895) was a French painter and a member of the circle of painters in Paris who became known as the Impressionists. Some of her most famous impressionist paintings include; 'View of Paris from the Trocadero', 'The Cradle' and 'Dans le Blé' (In the Wheatfield). Why not research her using google, write a biography of her life or even create your own impressionist piece of art inspired by her work?

Spectatular Sportsperson:

After a fantastic year with the England Cricket team, we are celebrating the achievements of All-rounder **Ben Stokes**. His heroic innings at the 2019 World Cup will go down as one of the greatest of any batsman in the One Day game. This was capped off by scoring the precious runs during the 'Super-Over' needed to secure the title of Cricket World Champions.

This display was followed by a strong showing in the 2019 Ashes Test Series against Australia, including an incredible *135 not out* during the Third Test.

Ben Stokes is now regarded as one of the worlds' best cricketers and was awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2019.

Why not relive some of his sporting heroics;

Third test Highlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrIew7-4isI>

World Cup Final Highlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kwu1yIC-ssg>