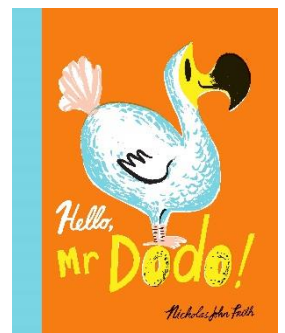




Hello, Mr Dodo!
written and illustrated
by Nicholas John Frith

1 – Introducing the book

- Look at the front cover. Has anyone ever seen a dodo? What other birds do you know? Start to make a list of birds children can think of, and where you might find them.
- Share some of the facts that Martha reads about Dodos, and find Mauritius on a world map. Discuss what it means for an animal to be 'extinct'. Why does Martha pretend to everyone that her dodo is invisible?
- Find out about some other creatures that are in danger of becoming extinct, for example by looking on the WWF website (www.wwf.org.uk)



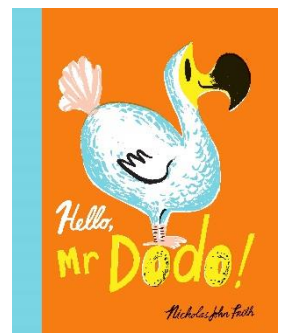


Hello, Mr Dodo!

written and illustrated
by Nicholas John Frith

2 – Cuckoo about birds

- Go back to the list of birds that children brainstormed before reading the book. Compare it with Martha's list. You can download 'spot it' identification sheets for children from the RSPB website (www.rspb.org.uk), and then go on a class birdwatch. Before you go, ask the children to work with a friend to make a pair of play binoculars from kitchen roll tubes that they can share. Use masking tape to fix the tubes together and then paint and decorate them. Attach ribbon or string so that they can hang round the wearer's neck.
- Martha gives her dodo doughnuts to eat, but most birds prefer to eat seeds and nuts, insects or worms! Help children to be a friend to local birds by making fat cakes to hang up outside the classroom which will encourage birds to visit. In a mixing bowl, combine dry ingredients such as wild bird seed, currants, sultanas, oats, bread and cake crumbs, grated cheese or peanuts (although ensure no children have a nut allergy in this case). Then pour over some melted lard (the best ratio is two parts dry to one part fat), stirring well until thoroughly combined. NB make sure an adult handles the hot fat. Spread out a piece of cling film on the table and place a large biscuit cutter on the centre. Scoop spoonfuls of the warm fat mixture into the biscuit cutter mould and press down with your fingers. Push the end of a length of twine firmly into the centre and cover with more of the warm fat mixture. Wrap the cling film around the cutter and then place in the fridge overnight for the fat cake to set. The fat cake can then be unwrapped and the biscuit cutter carefully removed, before hanging it up from a tree or shrub outside.





Hello, Mr Dodo!
written and illustrated
by Nicholas John Frith

3 – Friendship games

- Read the story again and discuss how Martha tries to protect her friend. How does Martha feel when she doesn't have the dodo to play with?
- Martha and her friend play together in secret. In small groups, help children to make secret dens that they can play in together. These could be inside or outside the classroom. Invite them to share how it felt to have that special place.
- Ask children to sit in a circle. One child should sit in the middle of the circle and be blindfolded. Point to children around the edge of the circle to say one at a time '[Name of child in the middle], I'm your friend'. Can they guess who has spoken? If they guess correctly, that child can come and take their place.

