



Gracelands
Nursery School

AUTUMN 1 - 2023

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

OCTOBER

27th - Break up for the half term holiday

WB 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

6th - Back to school (Autumn 2)

17th - Children in Need—pyjama day!

20th - World Children's Day and parent workshop on CRC

DECEMBER

13th - Christmas jumpers and Christmas creative parent workshop

20th - Christmas party day

22nd - Break up for Christmas holiday

WB 25th - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (2 WEEKS)

JANUARY

8th - Back to school (Spring 1)

15th - Reception place application deadline

FEBRUARY

9th - Break up for the half term holiday

WB 12th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

19th - STAFF TRAINING DAY

20th - Back to school (Spring 2)

MARCH

21st - Break up for Easter holiday

22nd—STAFF TRAINING DAY

WB 25th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

APRIL

8th - Back to school (Summer 1)

MAY

24th - Break up for the half term holiday

WB 27th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

JUNE

3rd - Back to school (Summer 2)

JULY

18th - Last day of provision for all children

19th - Graduation day for school leavers

22nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY

Executive Head Teacher: Sam Richards

Deputy Head Teacher: Harshila Parmar

SENCO: Gail Goldberg

Teacher: Laiba Sajid

Office Admin Assistant: Farah Shah

Nursery Practitioners: Salma Mushtaq,

Sughra Sattar, Rifat Shaheen,

Sonia Parvaz & Zaryab Mahmood



Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for reading our first newsletter of the year. We hope 2023-24 school year brings us all joy and happiness. We've had a wonderful time supporting your children to settle in this half term, becoming familiar with the routines, building relationships with their teachers and making new friends. We are so privileged to be able to be part of that with your children and love nothing more than helping them feel

as at home as possible.

It has certainly been a busy half term: we've played nonstop! We all know playing *is* learning and can be the best way to explore natural curiosities as well as find out new things. We have been outdoors lots, as always, but particularly enjoying some of the lovely September and October sunshine we've had. We will continue to use our outdoor environment lots as it is such an important part of learning and our curriculum, but we will endeavour to keep children safe and make sure they don't get too cold. Please remember hats and warm clothing after the short break—I don't doubt the frost will creep up on us come November.

To those celebrating Diwali on the 12th November, wishing you a Diwali that brings happiness, prosperity and joy to you and all your family.

I'd like to finish by sharing with you that it is **World Kindness Day** on **Monday 13th November**. World Kindness Day is celebrated throughout the World every year on 13th November. People pledge to undertake a good deed to help someone else on this day. Although we teach children to be kind and show kindness everyday, we will be taking the opportunity to celebrate kindness even more so on this day. Please join in with us and celebrate kindness at home.

Wishing you all a lovely week. *Sam*



NEW PARENTS AND FAMILIES, DID YOU KNOW ...

We are a Gold Award Rights Respecting School!

There was information shared in the induction workshop but if you were unable to attend or would like to find out more, please ask! :-)

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood
and lived in this school.



Contact Us

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@GracelandsNurs1

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gracelandsnurseryschool

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'GracelandsLocal Authority
Maintained Nursery School'

AUTUMN CURRICULUM FOCUS



Our curriculum focus, particularly in the first part of the autumn term, will be centred around children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) - focusing on *secure* transition for all children.

We have studied 'The Colour Monster' story, enabling children to become familiar with the names of different feelings and to identify them. Children have also been participating in activities such as scissors skills and mark-making using big brushes outdoors, which supports the development of their fine and gross motor skills.

We continue to sing nursery rhymes and build up our early collection of favourite songs. We also had a focus on aboriginal art with links to celebrate Black History month. Moving into autumn 2, we will focus on educating children about the importance of Oral health. We will learn about families, cultures and celebrations (Diwali, Bonfire night, Christmas). And through our next few core books (the little red hen, we are going on a bear hunt, the stick man), we will be learning about adventure, the natural world, weather and seasonal change.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance last year (2022-23)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	79%
Little nursery	68%
All	76%

Attendance this half term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	77.6%
Little nursery	75%
All	77%

It's been a good start to the year with regards to attendance, especially for our children in little nursery. There has been a huge 7% improvement in little nursery attendance. Our attendance this half term has risen overall by 1%... But every little matters. We still have some way to go to see that every child can access as much of their education entitlement as possible.

Our aspiration is to get to 90% attendance this year.

It can be tricky—especially at this time of year—to know when to keep your child off school when they have signs of winter colds. Hopefully

the NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' below will help those decisions.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



RRSA links:
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child links =
Article 3: best interests of the child
Article 28: right to an education

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone us on the first day. Let us know that your child won't be in, giving the reason. If the phone is engaged, please leave a message.

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK.

Coughs, colds or sore throat - It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough, cold or sore throat. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Conjunctivitis - You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Ringworm - If your child has ringworm, see a pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case, see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea - Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

High temperature - If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away. **Chickenpox** - If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Ear infection - If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

STARTWELL

For those of you who are new to Gracelands especially, let us introduce you to Startwell.

The early years of life is a vital time to set healthy foundations to prevent obesity later on in life. Our lifestyles are significantly influenced by early life experiences. Healthy lifestyle intervention at a young age can influence food choices, physical activity levels and leisure activity choices and these are likely to continue into adulthood.

The Startwell characters, that you will see over the course of the year are →

13th-19th November: Sugar Awareness Week

Eating too much sugar can cause us to gain weight and has a detrimental effect on our teeth and can contribute to tooth decay. Can you promote healthy snacks for families at home and promote our 2 snacks Max message? Put up a Smiley Shen sugar display to highlight how much sugar is in various drinks, cereals, toast toppings, sweets, biscuits, and chocolate. Check out Better Health, Healthier families sugar swaps [here](#). For more ideas on how to protect teeth and for activity ideas to do with the children, look at [Smiley Shen's activity ideas](#) on our [Startwell Website](#).



We will be focusing on oral health and sugar awareness after half term - it is always most powerful if nursery and home approach the same themes simultaneously to help enhance children's discussion and understanding.

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/about-startwell/>

Startwell



THE WAITING ROOM

TWR

THE WAITING ROOM

Birmingham and Solihull Health & Wellbeing services at your finger tips

<https://the-waitingroom.org/>

This website is a go-to for any well-being services families may need. These are just a few of the categories:



There are helpful websites, helpline numbers and social media links for everything you could possibly need as a family.

We are always here to help in any way we can as a nursery school, but if you prefer to find support for your family yourself, this website is one to remember.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

The following website shares very important information and tips on how to keep children and dogs safe and happy together. Last year, over 1,700 children were admitted to hospital with dog bites, usually unexpectedly from dogs in their own home.

https://capt.org.uk/dogs-and-children/?utm_source=capt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dogssummer&mc_cid=57c8a98863

There is a poster on the final page of this newsletter. This can also be found in many other languages at the above website.

child accident
prevention trust



SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS

 Birmingham
City Council

Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2024

We gave a letter out recently to those of you whose child is due to start Reception in September.

Please let us know if you need any help at all with logging in or completing the online application.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Remember, you can visit your preferred school's website or call them to find out when you can go and look at the school if you'd like to. The deadline for completion of application is:


15th January 2024




Safety around dogs


The bond between your child and dog can bring fun and happiness to family life. We don't expect our own dog to bite, but any dog can bite if they feel they have no other option.


Children are most likely to be bitten at home, by a familiar dog. Luckily most bites are preventable and close supervision is key.


-  **A calm, happy dog** is less likely to react unsafely to children's natural exuberance.
- Give your dog a safe space of their own where they can go if they need time out. Have a rule to leave them alone when they're there.
 - Keep them occupied – physical exercise and mental activity help keep your dog happy.
 - Teach your child to be calm and kind with your dog. Avoid shouting, teasing or restrictive cuddles.



-  **Close supervision** is the most important thing to keep children safe.
- Watch, listen and remain close when your child and dog are together.
 - If either your dog or child seems unhappy, positively and calmly separate them. You can throw your dog a treat or toy, or lead your child away.
 - **Understand your dog's body language** so you can spot signs they feel uncomfortable or stressed.
 - When you know you'll be distracted during busier times, use safety gates to keep children and dogs separate. Or, take your child or dog with you.

-  **Your growing child** – as your child changes, the risks can change too.
- Teach the rules to your child from an early age and keep explaining them as your child understands more.
 - As your child becomes more mobile, review changes needed, like adding safety gates.
 - Think ahead about your changing family life and new risks that can emerge. Read our fact sheet on bringing baby home.

-  **Trigger times** – teach your child to leave your dog alone when they are:
- Sleeping – no-one likes to be woken up suddenly.
 - Eating or having a treat – they might think you're going to take their food.
 - Have a toy or something else they really like – they might not want to share!

-  **Still worried?**
- If you're worried by the way your dog is with your child, talk to your vet. They'll check your dog's health and can refer you to a qualified animal behaviourist.
 - Visit the **Animal Behaviour and Training Council** website to find a qualified behaviourist near you.