



Gracelands  
Nursery School

SUMMER 1 - 2023

# NEWSLETTER

## Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

### Dates for your diary

#### JUNE

- 5th - STAFF TRAINING DAY (closed to chn)
- 6th - Back to school (Summer 2)
- 7th - SEND coffee morning / afternoon
- 13th - Trip to Hatton Country Park
- 20th - Transition workshop (parents of children starting Reception in September)

#### JULY

- 4th - Eid celebration day with families and children
- 5th - Physical activity parent workshop
- 6th - SEND coffee morning / afternoon
- W/C 10th - Parent consultations
- 21st - Break up for the summer holiday (last day of nursery provision for all children)
- 24th - Leavers' graduation day/fun day - parents and carers invited
- 25th - Home visits (new starters)
- 26th Jul- 3rd Sep—SUMMER HOLIDAY

#### SEPTEMBER

- 4th - STAFF TRAINING DAY
- 5th & 6th - Home visits (new starters)
- 7th & 8th - Stay and play sessions for all children
- 11th - Back to school (Autumn 1)
- 15th - STAFF TRAINING DAY (closed to chn)



### Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful time to be in nursery this half term. Of course, it is always a wonderful time, but the sunshine, snippets of blue skies, plants blossoming and children blossoming makes all the difference! Every day I feel lucky to be part of Gracelands Nursery School.

#### End of term dates and dates for September

The dates to the left provide all the information for the end of this academic year (including the Gracelands fun day!) and for the September start. We will remind you nearer the time with text messages as usual.

#### Nursery Places at Gracelands Nursery School for September 2021

We still have a few nursery places available for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in September. If you know of any family or friends who need a nursery, please post them to Gracelands.

#### Full time places

Is your child entitled to a full time place of 30 hours per week? Are you a carer for an elderly/disabled person or do you work a minimum of 16 hours? If so, you could be entitled to a full time place with us. Speak to Mrs Goldberg for more information.

I hope you and your child/children can enjoy some of the lovely weather expected next week. We are looking forward to the final half term of the year.

Sam



# SUN SAFETY



### Please help us to protect your child during the next few months of warmer weather:

- Children should wear at least SPF30 sunscreen. If your child attends all day, let their member of staff know if you'd like them to apply sunscreen.
- Dress children to help keep cool. Try to keep their shoulders covered.
- Provide a sunhat or cap.
- Ensure your child wears CLOSED TOE sandals to keep their little toes protected when playing.
- Provide a water bottle every day. We will encourage children to drink plenty of water.
- Ensure your child always brings a jacket—the English weather can change very quickly!



**Executive Head Teacher:** Samantha Richards

**Deputy Head Teacher:** Gail Goldberg

**Teacher:** Harshila Parmar

**Office Admin Assistant:** Reem Taleb

**Nursery Practitioners:**

Salma Mushtaq, Sughra Sattar, Rifat Shaheen,

Sonia Parvaz, Zaryab Mahmood

## WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL



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



**Contact Us**  
 GRACELANDS NURSERY  
 SCHOOL  
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 Birmingham, B11 1ED  
 ☎ 0121 772 3124

Follow us on  
 TWITTER  
 @GracelandsNurs1

Follow us on  
 FACEBOOK  
 'GracelandsLocal Authority  
 Maintained Nursery School'

Follow us on  
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 gracelandsnurseryschool

## SUMMER CURRICULUM FOCUS

This half term we have been focussing on self esteem and inner peace through our core books. The children have been exploring how having kind words and hands can help within friendships.

Throughout the year, children take part in different celebrations and learn about the wider world and different communities. During the summer term children will learn about the celebration of Eid.

Next half term, we look forward to having our caterpillars delivered. We will watch them develop and metamorphose into beautiful butterflies. The children will take care and nurture them until they are ready to be released. This will link very closely into our core books this term and building knowledge around insects and cycles of life.

We look forward to seeing all of our families attending our transition workshop for children who are leaving us in July for new adventures.

As part of sustainable lifestyles and our commitment to reducing the carbon footprint (part of the government plan), children will learn about planting and growing and where different vegetables grow - for example, under the earth, above the earth. Children will then learn how the food source gets to our tables by using our grown produce to cook with! Jakeman is engaged with a project (see right hand box) which promotes sustainable living.

What an exciting half term we have planned!



## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance since September	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	78%
Little nursery	70%
All	76%
Attendance summer 1 (this half term)	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	82%
Little nursery	70%
All	78%

We have seen positive improvements in attendance this half term, especially in big nursery. We are so pleased because we can only teach our intended curriculum to children when they are in nursery and this is gradually increasing.

Well done! Let's keep it up for the final half term.

We understand children get ill. See autumn newsletter for the NHS advice of when children are too ill for school.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



*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.*

## NATIONAL EDUCATION NATURE PARK PROJECT

We have been chosen as a NENP pilot school, trialling innovative nature engagement activities and techniques with the support of the 'Learning through Landscapes' project team.

The National Education Nature Park programme aims to make sure every young person in England has the opportunity to develop a meaningful connection to nature, understand biodiversity and climate resilience, and make a positive difference by learning about nature. Responding to the urgency of the climate crisis and the DfE's Sustainability Strategy, the programme will provide an opportunity to help us build on how to teach our children at Gracelands about climate and the environment. We are only 1 week into the 3 month project and hope the children will tell you lots about it over the coming weeks!



We're a National Education Nature Park pilot school

[nhm.ac.uk/education-nature-park](http://nhm.ac.uk/education-nature-park)

2023



# 180 ACTIVE MINUTES CHALLENGE

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

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

**Active Azra says:** "Remember to move more, sit less and get those belly buttons on the move."

**180 Katie Says:** "Make physical activity part of the daily routine at home and at Nursery. Enjoy being physically active, have fun and encourage children to join in. Children with active parents and carers are more likely to be active. Remember to make your hearts go... Boom Boom Boom."

- Once children are walking they should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of physical activities, including active and outdoor play, spread throughout the day; more is better.

• Over 3s should spend at least **180 minutes** (3 hours) per day in a variety of physical activities spread throughout the day, including active and outdoor play. More is better; the 180 minutes should include at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity.

- Higher levels of time spent in physical activity are associated with consistently improved: motor development, cognitive development and fitness. Inactivity and sedentary behaviour should be reduced and activity encouraged.



## SIMPLE PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tablespoon of cream of tartar
- Half a cup of salt

Optional: food colouring, glitter, herbs, essences

**METHOD:** Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan, and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball.

Keep it in a covered tub to stop it drying out.



## MATHS IN THE HOME

Ideas for how parents and carers can promote mathematical concept learning in and around the home in simple ways:

### Encouraging counting

- Setting the dinner table—how many people are in our family? Can you get [number] knives and [number] forks?
- Helping with jobs such as washing—can you find me 2 socks pair up? I wonder how many socks there are in our washing pile today?
- Shopping helper - can you get 4 bananas for me? I need 2 tins of beans today please. Count the items in the trolley/basket to check together.
- Transport hunt—on a walk or from your window. What colour cars shall we look for today? How many red cars can we see before the dinner is ready / before we have to leave for school...
- Distance using counting—how many steps to get to the front door? How many steps to get to the bathroom? How many hand spans long is our sofa?

### Encouraging looking at numbers

- What number channel do we need on the TV? Can you help me press the buttons?
- Where can you see different numbers in our house?
- Can you spot numbers on houses on a walk? Which ones do you recognise?

### Encouraging play linked to positional language

- Play hide and seek with a you. Give instructions to help your child find it. Use language such as 'behind' 'next to' 'on top of' 'under' in your clues.

### Encouraging exploring size

- Who has the biggest hands in our family? Who has the biggest shoes?

### Encouraging exploring shape

- Can you cut toast into triangles? Squares? Can you spot any rectangles in our living room?

Play and chat together is a brilliant way to learn. Early maths skills can be developed through so many everyday activities.

