



Gracelands
Nursery School

SPRING 1 - 2024

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

6th - SEND information event morning
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)
20th - Nursery and family trip to Twycross Zoo

JULY

18th - Last day of provision for all children
19th - Graduation day for school leavers
22nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY

SEPTEMBER

2nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY
3rd - STAFF TRAINING DAY
4th /5th- Home visits for new starters
6th - Stay and Play for all children
9th - Usual nursery sessions start



Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has flown by - 5 weeks do go quickly when you're having fun! And we have so much to fit in next half term which is also only 5 weeks. Have a browse of our curriculum info section on page 2 to see what we have planned.

Developing independence

Whether children are going to school in September or moving up to big nursery, it is so important to be developing children's independence skills all the time.

How can parents help children in nursery and at home to increase their independence?

As an example, children hanging their own coats and belongings up may take the form of several steps:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1)Unzipping their coat | 4)Finding the hood |
| 2)Removing their coat | 5)Hanging the hood over the hook |
| 3)Turning the arms back the correct way | |

The same applies for putting their coat on. Whichever stage your child is at, try and encourage them towards the next stage to develop their independence. If your child can do the above stages—what else could you encourage them to do for themselves?

Trip letter

This week we have sent out the trip letter and place booking form. We have 1 coach and the trip last summer was very popular—please return the form and pay a deposit to secure your spaces. The letter is also on the website if you need to refer back to dates and costings.

Take a walk through our environment with us...

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3Foys1NOTV/?igsh=NTc4MTlwNjQ2YQ==>

(Click the link to view the video!)

Please note, a reminder that the first day back after half term is a staff training day. Children return on Tuesday 20th February.

For those of you observing Ramadan, we wish you Ramadan Kareem. May Ramadan be generous to you.

Just like Nafisah (AKA Goldilocks) to the right, we might all go and take a little rest now. Have a good week whatever it is you have planned.



Sam

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

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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Maintained Nursery School'



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CURRICULUM FOCUS

LEARNING



This half term:

- ♦ In the home corner, children enjoyed using masks and props to retell the story. This activity allowed children to interact with each other and supported their language and communication skills.
- ♦ Taking inspiration from our core books, children have been using gross motor skills and their imagination to role play in the building area.
- ♦ In the studio, children loved exploring porridge play. This is linked with our skills focus within 'Exploring and Using Media and Materials'; children mixed water and porridge to experience a change in texture and consistency. Children also made their own porridge to eat! This involved skills such as measuring and following instructions.
- ♦ The book 'The Billy Goats Gruff' introduced children to different terrains. This was enhanced by children who took the opportunity to mold clay, making mountains, hills and bridges. Children were adding water, mixing and exploring the texture and changing shapes. Children are developing their gross and fine motor skills by molding, kneading, squeezing, and pulling clay. These are all important to develop pre-writing skills and developing hand muscle strength.
- ♦ Outdoors, children have particularly explored mark-making, particularly enjoying large scale vertical mark making using a range of media. The children have also shown an interest in playing ball games, using rackets and balls.
- ♦ Children have really enjoyed exploring natural materials in the outdoor kitchen. They made porridge for Goldilocks using leaves, water and mud. They used skills such as tearing the leaves, pouring, mixing, emptying and filing.

Spring 2 focus:

- ♦ Celebrations, particularly Chinese New Year and Easter, will develop understanding of different cultures and religions. This is further promoted through our Rights Respecting articles, supporting all children to understand that everybody has the right to practice their own culture, language and religion.
- ♦ Cooking activities, including making Chinese noodle stir fry, will link in to both cultural celebrations and discussion about healthy foods for our bodies and teeth. Encouraging children to create their own recipes will also enable them to experiment with their own symbols, marks and numerals.
- ♦ Our next core books are: 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' & 'Sunflower'. These will promote thinking and talk about adventure, the natural world, planting and growing, stranger danger awareness, friendship and kindness.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	75.5%
Little nursery	71.8%
All	74.5%

Our aspiration continues to be to reach 90% attendance.

There are some useful tips for parents at the following link, presented in written form and in video form.



[Improving School Attendance | SSS Learning](#)

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

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone nursery or leave us a message with the reason.

SEND INFORMATION EVENT

We have a brilliant information and advice session replacing our usual half termly coffee morning next half term...

On **Wednesday 6th March at 9am**, as well as our SENCO Gail, we have the following attending our morning event:

- ♦ PSS (Pupil and School Support Service)
- ♦ CAT (Communication and Autism Team)
- ♦ SALT (Speech and Language Therapists)
- ♦ EP (Educational Psychologist)

It is quite a challenge to gather the range of professionals together at the same time, and so we'd like all of our families to benefit from the session. The session will be held at:

Jakeman Nursery School, B12 9NX

This event is for parents with children who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

Special
Educational
Needs
& Disabilities



Parents can continue to:

- ♦ Talk to children after collection, asking them details about their day
- ♦ Encourage them to hear and recognise the first sound in their names
- ♦ Promote children hanging their own coats on their pegs independently
- ♦ Encourage them to find their own name and place it on the register board against a number
- ♦ Let us know if you notice any particular interests at home
- ♦ Continue reading to your children and remember to bring your book bags every Wednesday
- ♦ Singing nursery rhymes together as this is key to developing their vocabulary

Startwell

180 Katie



5th-11th Feb: Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 2024 has the theme of 'My Voice Matters'. It aims to look at reflecting on how children are given a voice and how we listen and respond to them. It aims to look at the importance of good mental health for children and young people and the importance of sharing thoughts and feelings with trusted others.

I'm 180 Katie and I promote the Physical Activity Guidelines for children aged under 5 years old.

Physical activity is a great way to boost mood! Why not try different types of dancing as a way of expressing emotions, particularly to different types of music. Can you encourage your child to try some dancing in the home, such as high-energy dancing, classical dancing, or even break dancing? Remember to link in 180 Katie!



Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:
<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/about-startwell/>



Why not have a go at the current spotlight recipe... banana smoothie. You can find it here <https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/spotlight-recipe-banana-smoothie/> along with information on how to bring the characters 'Sammy Skills' '2 Snacks Max' and 'Fay 5 Day' into the process.

ONLINE SAFETY

This week in nursery, for Safer Internet Day 2024, the children watched a **child-friendly video**—from the UK Safer Internet Centre—about watching videos online and coming across inappropriate content. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOORbbSUb-A> You can watch this with your child again and see if they remember any of the discussions they had with their teachers.

One of the most likely risks/issues for pre-schoolers online is exposure to inappropriate content. Below is a link to online safety advice, specifically for 0-5 year olds. It also includes an **internet safety checklist** for pre-school children.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/#:~:text=Use%20age%2Dappropriate%20sites%20and,BBC%20iPlayerKids%2C%20and%20Nick%20Jr.>

There are step-by-step guides for **adding parental controls** onto any type of device. This includes enabling screen time, setting up guided access, avoiding in-app purchases and preventing web access.

The link is here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/> but if you need any help with this, please ask!

As parents, you may like to read more into why it is so important to keep your children safe online and why being vigilant so early on is crucial. You can find parental video webinars and information here:

Top Tips for Parents: Why you need to keep your children safe online



<https://sslearning.co.uk/parentsandguardians/how-to-keep-children-safe-online>

Top Tips for Parents: How to keep your child safe online



<https://sslearning.co.uk/parentsandguardians/why-keep-child-safe-online>

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

Button batteries

<https://capt.org.uk/warning-to-parents-after-battery-death-of-two-year-old/>

Warning to parents after battery death of two-year-old

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board has issued a warning to parents after the death of a toddler who swallowed a button battery.

The little girl was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery after she started vomiting blood, but tragically died during the operation.

Her devastated mum later discovered a remote control with a missing battery in her daughter's bedroom.

The Safeguarding Board's warning states:

Button batteries power everyday objects like car key fobs, remote controls and children's toys. But did you know that if they are swallowed, they can badly injure, or even kill a child?

Batteries react with saliva and if a child swallows a button battery it can burn holes and cause internal bleeding and even death.



See the poster on the final page to learn more about where in your house button batteries are likely to be lurking—know where yours are so you can keep your child/ren safe.



Button batteries – where are yours?

Button batteries, particularly big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly hurt or kill a small child within two hours, if they get stuck in the food pipe. Know where yours are, so you can keep your children safe.



Five top tips

- Look round your home for lithium coin cell batteries – in products as well as spare and ‘flat’ batteries.
- Keep products well out of children’s reach if the battery compartment isn’t secured.
- Store spare button batteries in sealed containers in a high cupboard.
- Remember that ‘flat’ or ‘dead’ batteries still hold enough power to badly hurt a child. So put them out of children’s reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- If you think your child has swallowed a button battery, don’t delay, take them to A&E straight away or call 999 for an ambulance. Don’t let them eat or drink and don’t make them sick.

For more advice

www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Fitness tracker | 12. Bathroom scales |
| 2. Remote control | 13. Spare batteries |
| 3. Spare batteries | 14. Thermometer |
| 4. 3D glasses | 15. Flat battery |
| 5. Robot bug toy | 16. Robo fish |
| 6. Gaming headset | 17. Musical greeting card |
| 7. Car key | 18. Light-up yo-yo |
| 8. Key finder | 19. Tea light |
| 9. Kitchen scales | 20. Light saber |
| 10. Light up fidget spinner | 21. Flashing wand |
| 11. Spare batteries | |

