

Newsletter

October 2023



Welcome to the first Newsletter of this Academic Year. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our families from last year and a very warm welcome to all our new families. We look forward to working with you in your child's journey through Grasmere Nursery School.

You will find lots more information on our website, so please do take the time to have a look: www.grasmerenursery.co.uk

October Half Term Holidays

The nursery is closed to term time children from Monday, 23rd October to Friday 27th October (unless you have pre-booked holiday club).

Ofsted Inspection

As you may be aware, an Ofsted inspection was carried out in Nursery School (3-5s) on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October.

Their report will be published and shared with parents in the next few weeks.

Thank You!

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the generous grant of £2000 from UNITE Union, which enabled us to renovate our rainbow room garden with new Astroturf during the summer holidays. A huge thank you to Grasmere Community Gardeners and Mark Humphreys Landscaping who stepped in and worked tirelessly to assist the school, offering free labour for this project.

Their help meant everything to us, and we thank them for the support and belief in supporting our SEND pupils by enhancing our rainbow provision. Their generosity will make a positive difference to the children of Grasmere Nursery School both present and future.

This Half Term's Curriculum

0-3's

The Autumn Term is here and both Red and Purple Classes are continuing to settle in new children. This is going really well and shows in the children's progress.

Red Class have visited the Orchard, where the children had fun exploring the natural world. Red Class have also talked about and helped to look after our pet guinea pig called Denzil. With our value being "caring", our key text is "Spot goes to nursery" by Eric Hill and our key rhyme is "twinkle, twinkle little star".

Purple Class children are beginning to join in at singing time and are able to choose the songs they want to sing from our song board.

We look forward to our next half term and wish you all a lovely half-term break.

Alice Rolls, Purple Room Leader

3-5's

We have had a busy half term settling all our lovely new and returning children. The children have been building relationships with the adults in their classes and their peers. They have been learning the nursery routine and beginning to build on their independence skills by using the bathroom and putting on their own coats. Putting on their own coats and wellies is a big focus now and is something we always appreciate parents' support with too, so children can feel independent in their self-care skills. Our theme for this half term is 'Emotions/Feelings'. Our Value is 'Caring'.

Our key texts for this half term are 'The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas' and 'Owl Babies by Martin Waddell'. Our key rhyme is 'Please and Thank you'.

To join in with our Grasmere Grassroots Goal, 'love of books and language' it would be wonderful if you could share these stories at home too. Asking the children lots of questions about the characters, settings and events or what they like about the story will help to embed the books. The children have been learning about different emotions and feelings and how they can talk about them with others as well as expressing them appropriately.

The season we are focusing on is Autumn. We have been doing lots of different activities with the conkers that the children have been collecting from our outside area, including counting, weighing, conker-rolling and fishing too. We are looking at the changes that have started to happen to our trees.

October is Black History Month. Therefore, we are learning about Windrush and the different cultural differences in countries like Africa compared to where we live in England. Throughout the year we celebrate differences and similarities in our families by sharing the children's Culture Wheels. We listen to all types of music from different artists too.

Autumn 2 is going to be very busy with lots of exciting things planned. We are so lucky to have an author coming in to visit us! Curtis Ackie has written a new book, 'The Unscaredy Scaredy Cat' and will be reading it to the children on Monday 30th October.

We will also be holding a 'Hibernation/Pyjama Day' on Wednesday 1st November 2023, where we will all be coming into nursery wearing our pyjamas to put Phoebe and Ruby our school tortoises to sleep for the winter. We will have hot chocolate and sing them a lullaby when putting them to bed.

Grasmere Nursery School are proud to work with our local community. One of these is Little Bramingham Farm Residential Home. On Thursday 2nd November, some of the children will be going to the residential home to sing a selection of songs and rhymes to the elderly residents. It is an amazing opportunity for our children and the residents love seeing them and often join in with some of the songs too.

For autumn 2 our theme is 'Relationships' and our Value is 'Friendship', the season is autumn/winter. Our key texts are: 'The Leaf Thief' by Alice Hemming and 'Mixed' by Arree Chung. The key rhyme is 'Autumn Leaves'. It would be wonderful if you can share these books at home with your child too.

The weather is due to start getting colder now. Therefore, we would recommend putting extra layers on your child. As well as bringing in a pair of wellies, if possible, for your child when we are outside in the orchard.

We will soon be starting a new initiative in school called 'LiveSmart Toothbrushing Programme'. Letters will be coming out shortly to explain how we aim to support children and their parents/carers with dental hygiene.

We hope you all have a lovely half-term!

Kim Buttle, Deputy Head Teacher

Main Gate Opening Times

Morning drop-off: 8.45am – 9.05am

Morning pick-up: 11.45am – 11.55am

Afternoon drop-off: 12.30pm – 12.40pm

3pm pick up: 3.00pm – 3.10pm

3.30pm pick up: 3.30pm – 3.40pm

If the gate is closed, or you need to drop or pick-up your child at any other time, please bring them to Reception.



Parking

Thank you to everyone who parks in a courteous and safe manner when dropping or collecting your child from nursery. Parking is being constantly monitored but we still have issues with cars parking across the gates to our car park, on the yellow school zig-zag markings, on the pavements and across our neighbours' driveways. We appreciate how difficult parking is but appeal to you to park in the proper, safe and legal manner, showing consideration for others and, above all, ensuring everyone's safety.



Safeguarding

If you have any urgent concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact the Luton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01582 547653 or out of hours 0300 300 8123.

For further information or to make a referral, please visit:

https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/service.page?id=aJZE_OSgZfQ

Our own safeguarding team work hard to safeguard your children whilst they are at nursery. If your child sustains any marks or injuries outside of nursery, please let a member of staff know.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Barbara Tewe and our Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Kim Buttle, Anne Keenan and Lois Robins. If you have any concerns or need any help or support, please come and speak to one of us.



Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can include controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence.

If you need urgent help, please see the details below under 'Safeguarding' for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. For other advice and information, visit the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website at:

<https://bedsdv.org.uk/>



Community Garden at Grasmere

As you will have noticed, our neighbourhood gardeners have been carrying out extensive work in the community garden in the park next to nursery.

They are always looking for volunteers so if you would like to help, please speak to our reception staff who will be able to provide contact details.

Thank you in advance.



Attendance



If your child is going to be absent from nursery for any reason, please always call the office on 01582 593426 (Option 1) first thing in the morning to let us know. Although our children are not statutory school age, we do monitor attendance and expect it to be above 85% for children who access a two or three year funded place, however, we do appreciate that young children are still building their immunity. If you need any help or support with your child's attendance, please speak to Lois.

If your child needs medication of any kind whilst they are at nursery, please contact your Class Teacher or Room Lead to make an appointment to complete a Care Plan before they return to nursery. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, please ensure they are clear for 48 hours before they return to nursery. If your child is going to be late for any reason, please call the office to let us know.

Children who have regular absences can be unsettled as well as missing key elements of learning. Research shows that children whose level of attendance is higher make better progress than those who are regularly absent. Regular Nursery attendance is important to help children settle and make friends. Good attendance is also key for academic progress and attainment, and it does not matter if these absences are authorised (we know the reason) or unauthorised (no reason has been given). Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their children develops the habit of regular attendance.

For further information, please see the "Attendance" page on our website.

Luton Adult Learning

I am pleased to say that we will continue to work in conjunction with Luton Adult Learning and will be offering a number of courses and workshops during this academic year:

- Supporting your anxious child – now closed to bookings
- Managing your own and your family's wellbeing
- Positive behaviour in children
- Family art for wellbeing
- Getting ready for school



Please look out for further details by email.

Stay & Play and Baby Group

Our busy Stay & Play and Baby Group sessions are run in conjunction with Flying Start and are held every Friday during term time:

Stay & Play - 9.30-11.00am
Baby Group - 1.30-2.30pm

For more information about these sessions, please speak to Lois.



Flying Start Online Workshops

Flying Start is a partnership approach to the delivery of services for families in Luton, with a focus on the antenatal period and the early years. For lots of really useful information for families, including details of training, workshops and on-line sessions, please visit their website:

<https://www.flyingstartluton.com/whats-on-for-parents/flying-start-groups-services/>



Reminders

- To safeguard our children, please do not use your mobile phone, for any reason, whilst on the nursery premises.
- Please ensure that your child comes to nursery dressed appropriately to go outdoors whatever the weather.
- Please make sure all your child's clothes are named, including outdoor coats, hats, scarves and gloves (their name written on the label is good enough!). It is often a good idea to put gloves on elastic through your child's coat sleeves.
- Please bring a bag with at least one full spare change of clothes in case of accidents – this can be left at nursery and please name the outside of all bags.
- Please ensure that your child does not bring in toys from home; it is always upsetting for them if they get lost or broken and they are safer at home.
- Please do not bring any water bottles to nursery – unless there are special circumstances which have been agreed with your Class Teacher/Room Lead.
- Please do not open the gate to your child's class. For the safety of the children, the gates should only be opened by a member of staff.
- Please ensure that your child does not have any food, drinks or medication in their bags.
- Please note that we are a "nut and egg-free setting", so do not bring any foods containing nuts or eggs into nursery.

