

Newsletter

December 2023



Welcome to our December Newsletter, we hope you find it useful! You will find lots more information on our website, so please do take the time to have a look: www.grasmenursery.co.uk



Christmas Holidays

The last day of term is Tuesday, 19th December.
All children return on Thursday, 4th January 2024.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year break.

Ofsted Inspection

The report from our recent Ofsted inspection has now been published and is available to view on the 'Ofsted' page on our website or on the Ofsted website at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/20/109420>

This Half Term's Curriculum

0-3's

This half term both Purple and Red Classes have settled in more children. They are all doing well but need a little extra support to flourish.

Our key text is "That's not my Hedgehog" by Fiona Watt and our key rhyme is "please and thank you". These are becoming embedded in the children's memories, with the toddlers joining in singing and signing and babies babbling and signing. How wonderful it is to hear the children at snack time singing this.

Our value is friendship and the children are really starting to acknowledge each other, particularly during gathering as we sing our "hello song".

Our season is winter and we have collected conkers, leaves and twigs, which the children enjoyed exploring in the tuff trays.

Red Class are producing lovely pre-writing marks and shapes and are currently busy with Christmas preparations. We celebrated Diwali, the festival of light, and talked about how the children celebrate at home.

Purple Class have celebrated the fact that some of their babies are more mobile and walking, wow! Our children are able to choose the songs they like to sing at gathering, using a board and pictures. This is truly a milestone well reached and our babies are so proud of their achievements, clapping themselves happily.

Both Red and Purple Classes would like to wish you all a very happy, safe and healthy Christmas and New Year 2024 and we look forward to welcoming you back for the start of the Spring Term in January.

Alice Rolls, Purple Room Leader

3-5's

Well, what a busy half term it has been! We put our tortoises to sleep for the winter and it was lovely that the children joined us by coming into school wearing their pyjamas and we all loved the yummy hot chocolate too.

An author, Curtis Ackie, came into school and shared his new book with all the children. It was one he had written for Halloween called 'The Unscaredy Scaredy Cat'.

For Bonfire Night we made lots of colourful firework pictures. We also celebrated Diwali by joining in lots of different activities, for example, making Diya lamps and rangoli patterns. For Remembrance Day we made poppies and took part in a 1 minute silence to remember the fallen. We would like to thank all those who joined us in supporting 'Bliss' on World Prematurity Day, we wore purple and took part in lots of purple activities in class.

Christmas is nearly upon us! We have been making lots of Christmas decorations, putting up the tree and learning lots of new festive songs. Father Christmas came to visit us which was a lovely surprise! Thank you to all those who joined their children in our Christmas activity day. It was lovely to have you in school and we hope you enjoyed doing the activities with your children. Some of our children went to Little Bramingham Farm Residential home to sing Christmas songs to the elderly residents. We made them cards and they made one for us too, which is displayed in reception.

Next half term our theme is 'People Who Help Us', our Value is 'Love' and the season is 'Winter/Spring'. Our key texts and rhymes are: 'The Real Superheroes' by Julia Seal, 'So Much' by Trish Cooke and 'Miss Polly Had a Dolly'. It would be wonderful if you could share these books at home with your children too. This will help to promote one of our 'Grasmere Grassroot Goals' for all our children to have a love of books and language.

As our theme is 'People Who Help Us,' though we understand how busy you all are, if any parents would like to come in and talk to the children about their occupation, we would welcome you into the school. This really helps the children understand different occupations and what they are. Please either talk to your child's class team or email into the admin team if you are interested. Thank you in advance.

We would also like to ask that, over the Christmas break, you help your children with putting on their own coats, hats, gloves, shoes and boots to support their independence skills.

We look forward to welcoming new children and their families into school in January.

Finally we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024. See you all in January 2024.

Kim Buttle, Deputy Head Teacher

Staffing Changes

We are very sorry to be losing Alice Rolls, Purple Room Lead, who has decided to take early retirement and will leave us at Christmas. Alice has worked with us for 18 years and will be a huge loss to our nursery. We send Alice our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

We are pleased to announce that Sophie Gooding will be moving from Green Class into the post of Purple Room Lead.

We are also very sorry to be losing Shiffa Islam, SEND Early Years Worker, and Inderdeep Kaur, Midday Supervisor, but we wish them both the very best of luck in their new ventures.

Parking

Thank you to everyone who parks in a courteous and safe manner when dropping or collecting your child from nursery. However, we still have issues with a small number of cars parked dangerously or inconsiderately. We kindly ask that parents/carers do not park on the path outside our gates, on the yellow zig zags or block residents' driveways. We have had a number of complaints from our neighbours due to cars parked on or across their driveways. This is not acceptable under any circumstances. We kindly urge everyone 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.



Starting School in September 2024

(for children born between 1/9/2019-31/8/2020)

If your child turns four before 31st August 2024, you need to apply for a school place for Infant/Primary School by 15th January 2024. Please see the "Starting School" page on our website or Luton Council's starting school website for further information: https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Education_and_learning/Schools_and_colleges/School%20admissions/transferring-to-a-new-school-or-academy/Pages/Starting-school-in-September.aspx

If you need any further help or support, please speak to Lois.

Domestic Abuse

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

This can be heightened at certain times of the year, including Christmas. 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/>



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.



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 – please note we can only administer prescribed medication. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, please ensure they are clear for 48 hours before they return to nursery and if you have given your child Calpol or any pain relief, please don't send them to nursery that day. Also, if your child is going to be late for any reason, please call the office to let us know.

For further information about the importance of regular attendance, please see the "Attendance" page on our website.

Clothing

If your child comes home in nursery clothing due to an accident, we kindly ask that you wash and return it to us as soon as possible as we really are short of spare clothing.

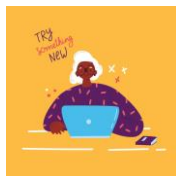
If you have any good quality clothing, particularly boys trousers for the 3 & 4 year olds, that you would like to donate, please give it into your class. Many thanks in advance.

Luton Adult Learning

We are pleased to say that we are continuing to work in conjunction with Luton Adult Learning and are offering a number of courses and workshops during the rest of this academic year:

- Managing your own and your family's wellbeing (starting Jan)
- Positive behaviour in children
- Family art for wellbeing
- Getting ready for school

Please look out for an email in the New Year giving details of how to book onto the next course.



Stay & Play and Baby Group

Our Stay and Play session will re-start on Friday, 12th January at 9.30-11am. The session is just £1 per family and includes a snack for the children.

To avoid turning families away during the winter months, there will be a booking system in place from January.

Please contact Flying Start to book a place:

Email: flyingstart@eyalliance.org.uk or call: 01582 368245

Unfortunately, due to low attendance, we have had to take the decision to cancel our Baby Group from January but please see the Flying Start website link below for details of lots of other groups and services in the area.

<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.

