

# Newsletter

## February 2024



Welcome to our February 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.grasmerenursery.co.uk](http://www.grasmerenursery.co.uk)

### **Half Term Holidays**

**Nursery will be closed to term-time children from  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

### **Staffing Changes**

In January we welcomed two new members of staff – Vijith Vijay, School Business Manager  
and Catherine Dominique, Midday Supervisor.

We say goodbye to Emma McGarrigle, Early Years Worker in Red Room, and wish her the very best of luck in her new job.

## **This Half Term's Curriculum**

### **0-3s**

What a busy half-term we have had! Both Purple and Red Classes have welcomed new children, who are settling in well and building healthy relationships with staff.

Our key text is "Spot goes to the Fire Station" and the children have enjoyed many related activities, including exploring shaving foam fires, extinguishing fires in the water tray and learning about the noises different vehicles make!

Our children have become experts at singing our key rhyme, "The Wheels on the Bus" and have enjoyed creating a bus display board in Red Class and recognising pictures of their friends on the bus!

The children have also been celebrating our value "Love". Children in Purple Class have been decorating heart magnets to give to their families. All the children have been looking after baby dolls to promote this value as well.

We have also been learning about "people who help us." Red Class created their own doctor's surgery and children in Purple Class enjoyed constructing with builder's tools.

All children enjoyed celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year! We have enjoyed trying traditional Chinese food and celebrating the year of the dragon. We all enjoyed a trip to the Orchard and picked chives with the children and made chive butter to have with our crackers at snack time! The children in Purple Class also added chives to play-dough that they made. It smelt lovely!

Both Purple and Red Class look forward to seeing you all after half-term. Have a lovely break!

### **3-5s**

It has been another busy half term and the children have been learning so much! Our new children have settled well and are forming positive relationships with their new classmates.

Through our focus on 'People Who Help Us', we have been learning about different occupations, including the different emergency services. Ask your child which number they should call in an emergency? In class the children have been acting out role-play experiences, such as Firefighters, Doctors and Vets. We were very lucky to have a Paramedic come into nursery to talk to the children about his role and they enjoyed having a turn with the equipment and even being a patient, wearing bandages and using his stethoscope.

We celebrated the Value of 'Love' by making cards and talking about who we love and why.

We took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch by learning about different British birds. We spent lots of time in our amazing orchard hanging the birdfeeders we made and using our handmade binoculars to see which birds we could spot.

For Children's Mental Health Week, the children took part in a range of well-being activities like Mindfulness, Yoga and large-scale creative activities.

It was Shrove Tuesday this week and the children enjoyed following a recipe to make pancakes and of course, tasting them too!

Next half term our Theme is 'Changes' and the Value is 'Happiness'. The season is Spring'.

The key text and rhyme are 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle and 'If You're Happy and You Know It'.

Our key text will help children understand the lifecycle of plants and the changes we see throughout the seasons. It would be wonderful if you could share this book with your child at home. This will help to reinforce what they are learning at school, as well as embedding the text, while giving them the opportunity to talk to you about what they know about lifecycles.

Sharing books is one of our 'Grasmere Grassroots Goals' for all children to have a 'Love of Books and Language' as well as developing their early reading skills. Please find the link below should you wish to purchase the book to share with your child at home. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tiny-Seed-Picture-Puffin/dp/014055713X>

For the children to experience this first-hand, we will be growing our own plants whilst at school, this will support the knowledge of lifecycles.

Some young children can find expressing their emotions and feelings appropriately a challenge, for example, sharing, turn-taking and playing appropriately. Therefore, we use different strategies across the year to teach these skills. We need to give the children the vocabulary they need to understand and express themselves appropriately. Through our key rhyme, we will continue to explore these different emotions by using 'signs for feelings and behaviours', for example, happy, angry, sad and frustrated.

Please speak to your class staff if you would like any information to support your child at home with any of these topics. We wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to returning for a half term full of learning and fun.

## Open Day

Our Open Day will be held on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 2pm. This is an opportunity for all prospective families to come and see what our wonderful nursery has to offer.



The poster for Grasmere Nursery School's Open Day features a rainbow background. At the top left, there is a logo with two children and a rainbow, with the text 'Grasmere Nursery School' and the motto 'We Learn and Play Through Our Values Each Day'. To the right, 'Open Day' is written in large purple letters, followed by 'Saturday 9th March 2024' and 'Anytime between 10am - 2pm'. Below this, it says 'Everyone is welcome'. A central graphic shows a tree with a purple circle containing the text 'Everyone is welcome to come and see our School'. To the right of the tree, it states 'Spaces are available for 3 months to 4 year olds' and 'Please contact us for further information'. At the bottom, contact details are provided: 'Icknield Way, Luton LU3 2BT Phone: 01582 593426', 'Email: admin@grasmere.nurseryluton.com', and 'Web: www.grasmerenursery.co.uk'. The Luton Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

## 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.

Luton Council Parking Enforcement Officers have been carrying out regular patrols and speaking with parents about the importance of parking safely. They are also doing regular patrols with their camera car and anyone parked in an illegal or unsafe manner will receive a fine.

Unfortunately, our neighbours have also had cause to complain about car parked blocking their drives and even on their drives. A number of accidents have occurred lately so we ask again that you park in a proper, safe and legal manner, showing consideration and safety for everyone.

Please do not park on the path outside our gates or on the yellow zig zags.



## 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](https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/service.page?id=aJZE_OSgZfQ)

Our 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, Vijith Vijay and Lois Robins. If you have any concerns or need any help or support, please come and speak to one of us.

## New Childcare Funding for Working Families

As you may be aware, significant changes are happening this year with 15 and 30 hour childcare funding for working families.

From April 2024 – up to 15 hours for eligible working families of two year olds

From September 2024 – up to 15 hours for eligible working families of children aged between 9 and 23 months

From September 2025 – up to 30 hours for eligible working families of children from 9 months old.

For more information, please contact the Office on 01582 593426 or Luton Council Family Information Service on 01582 548888.



