

Newsletter

March 2024



Welcome to our March 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

Easter Holidays

The last day of term for all children is Thursday 28th March.

Term-time children return on Monday 15th April.

Nursery is open from Monday 8th to Thursday 11th April to all-year children and those who have pre-booked holiday club.

The whole Nursery is closed on Friday 12th April for staff training.

Sponsored Brick Build

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our brick build, we are thrilled to say we raised a massive:

£1,346.20

This Half Term's Curriculum

0-3s

This term, the children in Red and Purple Classes have enjoyed reading our core book "That's not my chick". Red Class have created a lovely wall collage of a large chick, using different materials. Purple Class have created individual chicks using paper plates and handprints.

Both Classes have been practising singing and signing our key rhyme "If you're happy and you know it". We have also been promoting our value of "Happiness".

Red Class have been talking about what makes us happy, and Purple Class have been dancing and learning lots of actions to different songs. Purple Class have also been developing their physical skills, including practising walking up the steps or the slide independently.

Both Classes have been busy with our Easter activities of making cakes, Easter cards and especially enjoying the Easter egg hunt. Also, the children have enjoyed their experience in the Orchard, being out in the natural world and observing the blossom and buds on the trees.

We wish you and your family a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you after the break.

3-5s

We have had a short half-term, but have been really busy learning lots of new things. We have celebrated Mother's Day by making cards for someone special in our lives and discussing why they are special to us. For St. Patrick's Day, some children made soda bread and shamrocks and had a story all about a little leprechaun. For World Down Syndrome Day we learnt about how everyone is different and watched George from CBeebies, the first presenter on children's television with Down Syndrome. Below is a link to George reading his own book 'This is Me!' by George Webster.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxOiPLRb8OQ>

We have been focusing on 'Changes'. In the outdoor environment we looked at the changes in season and the lifecycle of a plant, growing lots of different things from cress to beans. We also looked at different media and how they change or react when you add something, eg. melting chocolate or a lemonade explosion!

For our Value of 'Happiness', we have been talking about what makes us feel happy and why, as well as doing activities which make us feel happy like 'Dough Disco'. Here is a link to find out more about 'Dough Disco':

<https://www.spreadthehappiness.co.uk/dough-disco/>

The children have been learning about Ramadan and sharing their own experiences with their peers too. Here is a video you can watch with your children: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-eid>

We have also been learning all about Easter, as well as making Easter nests and cards to take home to someone special.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-easter>

Some of the children went to Little Bramingham Farm Residential home to sing songs and act out 'There Was a Princess Long Ago' to the residents. The children were really lucky as, on the way back to nursery, they saw an air ambulance on a local field and even got to look inside too!

Little City came in for the day and the children were able to revisit 'People Who Help Us' through role-play. They loved the supermarket and Police Station where they had to capture The Gruffalo for stealing the biscuits! The boutique was very popular as they were able to try on different outfits, including princesses and superheroes. If you would like to see more about Little City, here is a link to their website: <https://www.littlecityuk.com/>

Next half term our theme is Recycling/Environment. Our Value is Respect. Our key texts are 'Let's Recycle' and 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. Here is the link to a video of Handa's Surprise story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyIV_xYi0as Our key rhyme is 'The Recycling Song' by our very own Mrs Jarvis. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like a copy of this to learn at home. It would be wonderful if you could share these books at home with your child too. Here is a link full of great advice from the Book Trust about reading with your child at home.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 15th April.

Easter Ideas for Families

- National Literacy trust has updated their walk and talk trail: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/walk-and-talk-trail/> A great activity to encourage families to support children's language development.
- Luton walking maps: https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Transport_and_streets/sustainable-travel/Pages/walking.aspx
The maps identify places/areas of interest across the town.
- I Spy games on walks: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/z6s26v4>
- Getting toddlers to dress for the weather: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zkt992p>
- Getting out in nature with your kids: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zj6nsk7>
- Watergate Farm Lambing Weekends: www.watergatefarm.co.uk
- Little Bramingham Farm Easter Event on Wednesday 10th April from 10.00-14:00 at Little Bramingham Park, Leamington Road, Luton, LU3 3XF. Petting farm Animal Edge (open 10.30-12.30 with pigs, goats, guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens), Easter egg hunt, Easter crafts and Susie's Tea Room with Easter treats and beverages.



Parking

Unfortunately, we still have issues with a small number of cars who park dangerously or inconsiderately when dropping or collecting children from nursery.

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.

Please do not park on the path outside our gates or on the yellow keep clear road markings. We have received complaints from our neighbours on Icknield Way about cars blocking their drives and even parking on their driveways. We have also received complaints from our neighbours in Wycombe Way about cars parking on the grass verge and double parking – this would make it impossible for the emergency services to drive through.

We appeal to anyone who drops or collects children from nursery, to park in a proper, safe and legal manner, showing consideration and safety for everyone, particularly children.



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 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 Support 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, claim up to 15 hours for eligible working families of two year olds

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

From September 2025, claim up to 30 hours for eligible working families of children from 9 months old up to school age.

For more information, go to: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



Starting School in September 2024

For those children born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 who are due to start school in September, just a reminder that all school offer letters will be sent to parents on 16th April 2024.

If, for any reason, you have not submitted a school application, you will need to do so as soon as possible using the following link:

Starting School

Late applications will not be allocated in the first round of school places.



Child Car Seats – The Law

We have recently had cause to speak to a number of parents/carers who are not correctly restraining their children when travelling in cars. For the safety of your child, please **always** ensure your child is correctly restrained in a car.



The law states that children must normally use a child car seat until they are 12 years old or 135cm tall, whichever comes first. You should choose the appropriate child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

The same rules apply for children with disabilities or medical conditions, but they can use a disabled person's seat belt or a child restraint designed for their needs.

Attendance

As a nursery, we understand the importance of regular attendance but appreciate how difficult this can be with children who are still building their immunity.

If your child is going to be absent from nursery for any reason, please always call the office first thing in the morning with a reason. 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. If you have given your child Calpol or any pain relief, please don't send them to nursery that day .

Our attendance target is 85% for all two and three year funded children but we know that sometimes children cannot come to school because they are really unwell. That's the right thing to do for them, other children and our staff. Medical advice is clear, however, that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend, for example if they have a cough or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> is designed to support parents in their decision-making about mild illness. For more information about the importance and benefit of regular attendance, please see our website: <https://www.grasmerenursery.co.uk/page/?title=Attendance&pid=60>

If you would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Lois, our Family Worker.



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 children's safety, 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-free setting", please do not bring any foods containing nuts into nursery, particularly in packed lunches.
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