

Newsletter

December 2024



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.grasmerenursery.co.uk

Christmas Holiday

Nursery is closed to all children from Monday 23rd December to Monday 6th January.
All children return on Tuesday, 7th January.

February Half Term Holiday

Nursery is closed to all term-time children from Monday 17th to Friday 23rd February.
For all other dates, see the academic calendar on our website: [24/24 Academic Calendar](#)

Next Half Term's Curriculum

0-3s (Purple, Red and Silver Rooms)

Purple Room - Next half term we will be celebrating Chinese New Year by painting snake decorations and trying new foods, including prawn crackers and noodles. We will also be baking lots of yummy treats, including pinwheels and pancakes, where we will be developing our turn-taking skills. On Valentine's Day, we will be talking about people who we love, so please have your 'All About Me' ready to share with the class. We will be creating pink play-dough and developing our fine motor skills by rolling, pinching and squeezing the dough. As always, Purple Class will be full of singing, dancing and lots of new sensory experiences.

Red and Silver Rooms - Thank you to everyone who attended our recent parent's information evening, we hope you all found it informative.

When we return in January 2025, our theme will be 'People who help us' and we will be learning about firefighters, doctors and nurses. Our value is 'Love'. Our key rhyme is 'The Wheels On The Bus' and our key text is 'Spot Goes To The Fire Station'.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

We look forward to creating new learning opportunities and experiences to support your child's learning and development.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

3-5s (Yellow, Blue and Green Rooms)

We have all had a busy and lovely half term preparing for Christmas. Here is some of what your children will be doing next half term.

For the Spring 1 half-term, our theme is 'People Who Help Us'. Our Value is 'Love'. The season is 'Winter'. Our key texts are 'The Real Superheroes' by Julia Seal and 'So Much' by Trish Cooke. Our key rhyme is 'Miss Polly Had a Dolly'.

We will be learning all about different occupations and job roles within our community. This includes the emergency services.

We will share the book 'The Real Superheroes' to learn about different jobs people have and what they do in those roles. If any parents/carers would like to come into nursery to talk to the children about your occupation and show any equipment you use, we would be very grateful. For the children to have this first-hand experience is amazing and deepens the learning further. If you are interested then please email admin@grasmere.nurseryluton.com and we will get in touch to discuss it further. I wonder if by the end of the half term your child can tell you what number to call in an emergency.

For Valentine's Day we will be learning all about Love. This is supported by our key text 'So Much'. If you would like to buy these books they are available on Amazon or you could go to the library to borrow them to share together at home.

From the 24th-26th January 2025, it is the Big Garden Birdwatch. We will be out in the orchard trying to spot the different species of birds, as well as making bird feeders for the birds for over the winter months. If you would like to join in with us, you can find the website details below. We wonder how many different birds you can spot outdoors.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year, which falls on 29th January 2025, and is the year of the snake. We will be taking part in tasting traditional Chinese food and will even be doing a lion dance. I wonder if you can help your child to find out what animal it was the year they were born. Here is a link for your child to learn more about Chinese New Year.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/chinese-new-year>

The week commencing 3rd February 2025 is Children's Mental Health week. The focus this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. The children will be taking part in many mindfulness and yoga activities, as well as focusing on self-awareness and how to express their emotions. For many young children, expressing their emotions appropriately can be challenging. We need to give our children the vocabulary and teach them different strategies to enable them to learn these important social skills. If you would like to join in with us please see the link below for information and ideas.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break.

Newsletter Feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent Newsletter feedback form. As requested, we are now including details of upcoming events, calendar dates and information about the forthcoming half term so that you are able to support your child's learning at home. We have also included information about staffing changes and would like to apologise for the omission of information about Silver Class which we have rectified in this edition. We hope you find this useful and if there is any other information you would like to see included in future newsletters, please let Lois know.



Staffing Changes

We have welcomed a number of new staff during the Autumn term and wish them the best of luck in their new roles:

Kanza Ishtaq – Early Years Worker Red Class
Zobia Chaudary – Early Years Worker
Zara Hammond – After School Club
Sajna Begum – Midday Supervisor
Asma Ahmed – Midday Supervisor



We also say goodbye to one of our Midday Supervisors, Andleeb Sheikh but wish her the very best of luck in her new venture.

Starting School in September 2025

(for children born between 01/09/2020-31/08/2021)

If your child turns 4 before 31st August 2025, you need to apply for an Infant/Primary school place by **15th January 2025**. Please see the "Starting School" page on our website: [Grasmere Nursery Starting School Website](#) or Luton Council's starting school website for further information: [Admissions Starting School Information](#)

We will also be holding drop-in sessions on 9th January at 8.45am and 12.30pm to support parents and carers with submitting applications. If you haven't submitted your application before this date and need some help, please come along. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to Lois.



Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can include controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence. If you need help, information or support please visit the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website [BDAP](#) or see the links and numbers below:

24 Hour [National Domestic Abuse Helpline for Women](#) 0808 2000 247

[Men's Advice Line](#) 0808 8010 327 or [ManKind Initiative](#) 01823 334244

[LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) 0800 999 5428

If you need to report domestic abuse call 101. If someone is in immediate danger, phone the police on 999

If you cannot speak, use the [Silent Solution](#). Dial 999 from a mobile and press 55 when prompted by the operator

Mental health support can be sought from NHS 111, option 2. [Samaritans](#) on 116 123 or [Mind](#) on 0300 123 3393



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: [MASH referral](#)

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 always let a member of staff know on arrival.

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



Main Gate Opening Times

Just a reminder of the gate opening times:

8.45am – 9.05am
11.45am – 11.55am
12.30pm – 12.40pm
3.00pm – 3.10pm
3.30pm – 3.40pm



If you are going to be late for any reason when collecting your child, please call the office to let us know.

If the main gate from Icknield Way to the classrooms is closed, please drop or collect your child from Reception.

We do ask that you are on time when dropping and collecting your child, as this can impact on their learning and wellbeing.

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, giving the 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.

If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, please ensure they are clear for 48 hours before they return to nursery. Our attendance target is 85% for all Government 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 [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: [Grasmere attendance information](#) If you would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Lois.



Nut-Free Setting

Please note that due to a number of very severe allergies across the whole nursery, we are a completely nut-free setting. We therefore ask that you do not bring nuts, or food containing nuts, into the nursery for any reason. Packed lunches should not contain any foods that contain nuts, and if bringing a cake, biscuits or treats into the nursery for a celebration, please



ensure the list of ingredients do not include nuts or nut essence. If you need any further information or clarification, please speak to Lois.

Luton Adult Learning Workshops

We will be running a number of workshops in conjunction with Luton Adult Learning during this academic year. Further details will be sent nearer the time so please look out for details of how to book a place:

- Managing your own and your child's wellbeing (Jan-Feb)
- Keeping your family safe online (Mar)
- Encouraging positive behaviour in children (Apr/May)
- Getting ready for school (Jun/Jul)

Luton
Adult Learning

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 and it is 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 for any reason.

