

Newsletter

February 2025



Welcome to our latest 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

February Half Term Holiday

Nursery is closed to all term-time children from Monday 17th to Friday 23rd February.

Easter Holiday

Term-time children: Nursery will be closed to children from Monday 7th April to Tuesday 22nd April.

Children return on Wednesday 23rd April.

Year-round children: Nursery will be closed from Monday 14th April to Tuesday 22nd April.

Children return on Wednesday 23rd April.

For all holiday dates, see the academic calendar on our website: [24/24 Academic Calendar](#)

Staffing Changes

We would like to welcome Mel Beckles, Early Years Worker in 0-3s, and wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Next Half Term's Curriculum

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

Purple Room - Our theme for next half-term is 'Changes' and we will be looking at the world around us to explore what changes we can see. Our value will be 'Happiness' and we will be singing "if you're happy and you know it." We will also be sending home a paper heart and asking you to share with us your children's favourite toys.

We will be tasting pancakes on Shrove Tuesday on 4th March, and celebrating World Book Day on 6th March, so please share your child's favourite books throughout the next half-term with staff. We will also be participating in an Easter egg hunt at the end of the half-term.

Red and Silver Rooms – Our theme for the next half-term is 'Changes'. We will be waking up our tortoises, Ruby and Phoebe, from hibernation and planting seeds and watching them grow into flowers. Our value will be 'Happiness'. We will be introducing and learning our key rhyme "If You're Happy and You Know It". Our key text is "That's not my chick" and the vocabulary we will be focusing on is 'happiness,' 'growing' and 'change.'

In Red class, we will be introducing two new guinea pigs called Vinnie and Lenny. Silver class are very excited to visit them! Please could you bring in a photograph of your child's pet for us to share at nursery as we are learning how to care for a pet. We will be making pancakes for Pancake Day, and we look forward to seeing your child's outfits for World Book Day on 6th March. We encourage everyone to bring in their favourite book to share with us at nursery! Towards the end of the term, we will be celebrating Eid and Easter, and we look forward to our Easter egg hunt!

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

Another half term has passed and what a busy one it has been. The children have loved our theme 'People Who Help Us' this half term. I hope your children now knows what number to call in an emergency!

Next half term our theme is 'Changes', the Value is 'Happiness' and the season is 'Spring'. Our key texts are 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will also be learning lots of rhymes around our feelings and emotions from 'Feelings for Behaviours and Emotions'.

We will be looking at the changes we notice in the environment, with spring flowers growing and baby lambs etc. being born. We will also be growing plants of our own. World Book Day is on 6th March, a letter will follow shortly, but we can't wait to see what book characters your children come to nursery as that day. Shrove Tuesday is on 4th March and we will be making pancakes for snack. We also look forward to waking our tortoises, Ruby and Phoebe, up after their long winter sleep.

The children will become scientists as they take part in different experiments; investigating and exploring the properties of different media and how they change/react when something is added.

We hope you enjoy the half term holiday.

Open Day

Our Open Day will be held on Saturday, 15th March between 10am and 2pm. This is an opportunity for all prospective families to come and see what our wonderful nursery has to offer. If you have any family or friends who are looking for a nursery place from September, please let them know.



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 should already have applied for an Infant/Primary school place for September. If you have not yet done so, you must submit your application as soon as possible.



The outcome of applications will be sent to parents by the Luton Council Admissions Team on 16th April.

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 & Illness

Our attendance target for all 15 or 30 hour funded children is 85%. For more information about the importance and benefit of regular attendance, please see our website: [Grasmere attendance information](#)

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 let us know the reason first thing in the morning.

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. 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.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please contact Lois.



Nut-Free Setting

Please note that due to very severe nut 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 are running a number of workshops in conjunction with Luton Adult Learning during this academic year. Further details of upcoming courses will be sent nearer the time so please look out for details if you would like to book a place:

- Keeping your family safe online (March)
- Encouraging positive behaviour in children (April/May)
- Getting ready for school (June/July)

Luton
Adult Learning

Safer Internet Day – 11th February

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

For useful information, tips and advice about keeping you and your family safe online, not just on Safer Internet Day but all year round, please take a look at the following websites:

Safer Internet Day: <https://www.saferinternetday.org/>

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Techosaurus: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/>

Safer
Internet
Day 2025 | Tuesday
11 February
Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre
saferinternetday.org.uk

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.

