



Welcome to our second Newsletter of this academic year – we aim to produce these Newsletters every half term and hope you find them useful. We hope that all of our new families have now settled into nursery life and we are looking forward to getting to know you better during the rest of this academic year.

There is lots more information available on our website at [www.grasmerenursery.co.uk](http://www.grasmerenursery.co.uk) so please take the time to have a look and our brand new website will hopefully be up and running in the next few weeks.

If you have any question or need at support at any time, please speak your child's keyworker or our Family Worker.

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



The theme for this half-term is Feelings and Emotions, the season is Autumn/Winter and our Value is Friendship.

Our key text for 0-3s is "That's Not My Hedgehog" and our key rhyme is "If You're Happy and You Know It"

Our key text for 3-5s is "The Colour Monster" and "The Nativity" and our key rhyme is "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"

As a school it is very important to us to support our local community. Therefore, we are now working closely with 'Little Bramingham Farm' Care Home for the Elderly. Already the children have made the residents a lovely Poppy card for Remembrance Day, which we hear they were absolutely thrilled with! We will be making Christmas Cards for them and some of the children will be walking up to deliver them to the home. We are very proud to be part of any opportunities to support the residents of Little Bramingham Farm while brightening their days too.

### ***Yellow Class News***

This half term we have been very busy and learning lots too. We've been forming 'friendships' and talking about our different emotions. Ask us to show you the different signs we use for our feelings, e.g. sad, worried, angry and happy.

When celebrating Diwali, we made Diva lamps and Mango Lassi and tried different types of poppadum's. On Halloween, we carved pumpkins and shared spooky stories 'Wake Up Do, Lydia Lou' and 'Room on the Broom'. For Bonfire Night we used our creative skills to make amazing sparkly firework pictures. For Remembrance Day we learnt about veterans and made poppies to wear, to remember the soldiers who lost their lives during the war. We are very proud of the card we made for the residents at Little Bramingham Farm.

Each week we are learning about what is happening in the world through our 'Picture News'. This includes the first robot to go into the House of Commons to show her amazing artwork. We then made our own robots using 3D shapes. We decided what we would like them to be able to do, some ideas were to tidy our bedroom and walk the dog!

With Christmas fast approaching, we have already started our Festive wreathes. We will be learning new Christmas songs and all about the meaning behind Christmas. At home please can you help your child to put on their own coats, hats, scarves and boots/shoes. This will really help their independence skills when getting ready to go and explore in our outside area.

### ***Blue Class News***

Blue Class children and adults have settled in very well and been very busy so far this term. We continue to care for our four class guinea pigs; Pippin, Floof, Silken and Hari and welcomed in two new Giant African snails, which the children voted to name Apple and Celery.

We have celebrated Black History month, building the Empire Windrush ship, carved pumpkins for Halloween, made fireworks for Bonfire Night and poppies for Remembrance Day – we even managed to be silent for one minute! Cooking activities continue to be very popular, so far, we have made apple crumble (using apples collected in the orchard), hedgehog bread rolls when learning about hibernation and iced spotty biscuits on Children in Need Day, in addition to gingerbread, banana loaf and puff pastry pinwheels.

We are beginning to prepare for Christmas by learning carols and making decorations and we have turned our role-play area into a 'Winter Wonderland'. We will keep you informed of our learning on the class noticeboard and appreciate your continued interest and support.

## Green Class News

This half term we have had lots of fun making new friends. We have got to know our teachers too and have talked all about how we are feeling. Green class has enjoyed reading *The Colour Monster*, which has helped us to talk about trickier feelings and how to manage them. We have been celebrating and learning about lots of different festivals and events too. We scooped and carved pumpkins for Halloween and even made pumpkin soup. We learned about Diwali and tried dressing up in special clothes. On Bonfire night we recycled some kitchen rolls into printers to make bright and sparkly fireworks. For Remembrance Day we learned about soldiers who bravely fight in war and we made poppy prints with our hands to remember the soldiers who didn't come home. We are also learning about how to look after ourselves. We know how to wash our hands and lots of us can use the toilet. Now that it is getting colder, we are finding out how to put on and take off our own coats and wellies. Some of us have even learned how to do our zips up all by ourselves! We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas by learning some festive songs and joining in with lots of Christmas crafting and some baking!

## Red Class News

During this term, Red Class children have settled well into nursery and are beginning to join in with activities, expressing their feelings and emotions, eg. happy/sad. They have showed this using flour shaking, where the children can draw and show their feelings. The children have enjoyed our key texts "Spot goes to Nursery" and "That's not my Hedgehog". The children are broadening their language development by listening to our daily stories. We are also singing our key rhymes "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and "If you're happy and you know it", where the children are singing and signing, enriching their vocabulary. The children have created a lovely display using different materials, some collected from our natural environment. We also made a delicious apple crumble with the apples collected from the Orchard. We look forward to the children's continued learning and development, nurturing and scaffolding their curiosity.

## Purple Class News

During this half-term in Purple Class, we welcomed and settled our children very gently into nursery, according to their individual needs. We are focusing on our stories "Spot loves Nursery" by Eric Hill and "That's not my Hedgehog" by Fiona Watt. From these key texts, we aim to build the children's ever increasing vocabulary, nurturing our love of books everyday. We sing our key rhymes "Twinkle Twinkle" and "If you're happy and you know it". From this, even our youngest children are joining in singing, signing and babbling as these rhymes become embedded by continuous repetition. How amazing that after only a few weeks, our children's confidence grows; they are safe, happy, stimulated and excited at the prospect of another day. We continue to look forward to more opportunities for fun and learning.

### Christmas Dates

- Christmas holidays start on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December and the children return to nursery on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January (Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> January is a staff training day).
- We will be holding a Christmas Party for the children on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - a letter will follow with more information.
- We will be transforming the Cabin in our Orchard into a Christmas Grotto and parents will be invited to come and visit – a letter will follow with dates and more information.



### New Baby Group for children under 18 months

Our new Baby Group started on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The group will run weekly during term-time in Rainbow Room on Fridays from 1.30pm-2.30pm.

We also hold weekly Stay & Play sessions from 9.30am-11am for children under 5.

Both groups will finish for the Christmas holidays on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. For more information, please speak to Lois.



## Starting School Applications

For all children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

You must apply for a school place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. For more information, please either speak to Lois, see the "Starting School" page on our website or visit the Admissions website at:

[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](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)



We are holding a drop-in on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November from 9am to 10am in our Nurture Room - please go to Reception for directions. Please come along and speak to someone from the Access to Education Team and our Family Worker who will be able to answer any questions or help you to complete your application form.

## Grasmere Nursery School Community Project

I am pleased to share that Grasmere Nursery School will be working collaboratively with the Neighbour Community Garden Group. The main aim is to enhance both our outdoor school environment as well as help develop a community space to grow flowers and vegetable for our local community residents.

The community Garden Team will consist of local volunteers who will help to clean and freshen the nursery gardens including developing our school sensory garden.

Grasmere is dedicated to enhancing community spirit and well-being for all. If you would like to volunteer for this project please ring the school office.



## Maths Workshop

Parents and carers of our 3-5s children attended a Maths Workshop on Thursday 3rd and Friday 11th November – two dates had to be arranged as demand was so popular. Children accompanied adults during the hour-long session in the Nurture Room and shared the opportunity to:

- Participate in a variety of mathematical activities provided within the setting.
- Make a counting songs resource to support mathematical learning at home.
- Borrow a story or non-fiction book from our Maths Hub library.
- Speak to the Maths Lead about how mathematics is taught in Early Years and how best to support learning at home.



Parents and Carers were invited to provide feedback on the session, which was 100% positive. Comments ranged from appreciating provision of information and support, valuing the opportunity to attend the session with their child and surprise at how resources from the home and environment can provide learning with little or no cost. The sessions were very successful and plans to extend this to the 0-3s and repeat during the summer term have been discussed.

## Parking

We have had a numbers of issues lately with parents and carers parking across the gates to our car park, on the yellow school zig-zag markings and on the pavements.

We appreciate how difficult parking is outside the nursery, but appeal to you to park in the proper, safe and legal manner. Please show consideration for our local residents, other families and keep the safety of the children as your highest priority.



## Flying Start Online Workshops

Flying Start is a partnership approach to the delivery of services for families in Luton, with a focus on the antenatal period and the early years.

For lots of really useful information for families, including details of upcoming on-line workshops, please visit their website:

<https://www.flyingstartluton.com/whats-on-for-parents/flying-start-groups-services/>



## Absence & Illness

Just a reminder that if your child is going to be absent for any reason, please always call the office 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 80% for any child who accesses a 2 or 3 year funded place.

If your child needs medication of any kind whilst they are at nursery, please speak to your Class Teacher to complete a Care Plan. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, please ensure they are clear for 48 hours before they return to nursery.



## Family Worker Support

Lois, our Family Worker, is here to support you in any way she can, alongside the staff in your child's Class. Lois can help with your child's transition into nursery, toilet training, feeding, sleeping, behaviour, starting school applications, or even a friendly chat.

If you have any questions or need any support or help, please do not hesitate to contact her:

[lrobins@grasmere.nurseryluton.com](mailto:lrobins@grasmere.nurseryluton.com)



## Reminders

- 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 (their name written on a label is good enough!).
- Please bring a bag with at least one full spare change of clothes in case of accidents – this can be left at nursery.
- 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 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 drinks, snacks or medication in their bags.

