

Newsletter

February 2026



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 children from Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

Easter Holiday

Nursery will be closed to all children from Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

For all holiday 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 - Happy half term everyone! It has been a busy one filled with lots of celebrations including Ramadan and Shrove Tuesday. We will, of course, be celebrating these when the children return to us by decorating some glittering moon and stars and tasting delicious pancakes with various healthy toppings. The children in Purple Class have loved their music sessions with Roxy, and these will continue on a Tuesday morning with lots of dancing, instruments and songs. Outside, the children will explore the sandpit and develop their fine motor skills by digging, scooping and building creatively. Our children recently enjoyed a trip to the Orchard and collected some chives to make chive butter for their crackers at snack time. Next half term, our children will collect the chives to incorporate into our play-dough!

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 also planting seeds and watching them grow into flowers. Our value is 'Happiness' and 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.'

If you have one, 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 look forward to seeing your child's outfits for World Book Day on 5th March (further details will be sent out nearer the time) and we encourage everyone to bring in their favourite book to share with us at nursery. We will also look forward to celebrating Eid and Easter with the children.

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

Wow, this half-term has flown by! We have been busy celebrating different events, including Valentine's Day, and have learnt about different emergency services. I wonder if your child can tell you what number to call in an emergency, who to ask for and why you would need the different types of services?

We have learnt all about love and who we love and why, as well as why love is important. The Big British Bird Watch was a lovely week where the children learnt about different breeds of birds, their habitat and how we can care for them. Can they tell you any breeds of birds they may have spotted in our Orchard, while they are at home or out and about? Next half term, as we move into Spring, our theme will be 'Changes'. Our Value will be 'Happiness' and the season 'Spring'. Our key text to support the theme is 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. The text we use to support our Value is 'A Sprinkle of Happiness' by Lucy Rowland. Our key rhyme is 'If You're Happy and You know It'. Please find below the links to both books if you would like to share them with your child at home:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tiny-Seed-Picture-Puffin/dp/014055713X>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sprinkle-Happiness-HB-Lucy-Rowland/dp/0702322539>

Here is a link to the story on YouTube of 'The Tiny Seed'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqHbUacZ8Nc>

Some of festivals and events we will be focusing on through the next half-term are; Easter on 5th April, St. Patrick's Day on 17th March, Holi on 4th March and Mother's Day on 15th March.

We wish you a relaxing half-term break and look forward to seeing the children on Monday 23rd February.

Open Day

Our Open Day will be held on Saturday, 14th 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 2026

(for children born between 01/09/2021-31/08/2022)

If your child turns 4 before 31st August 2026, you should already have applied for an Infant/Primary school place for September. 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.



Safer Internet Day – 10th 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://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.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/>



Oral Health

Please see below information received from Sundon Dental Clinic:

We are pleased to let you know that we are running our Children's Dental Clinics again in the upcoming school holiday to improve access to Dental Services for children in the local area. Dental decay among children remains an important public health issue as it leads to pain and distress, sleepless nights for children and parents, and time off school and work. Dental decay is largely a preventable disease. Further work to improve oral health and reduce inequalities is needed as nearly a quarter of 5-year-olds had experience of dental decay and the inequalities gap remains unacceptably high. Currently Luton has the highest prevalence of tooth decay in five-year-old children in the East of England region.

The results of the oral health survey of 5-year-old children 2024 show wide variation at both regional and local authority levels for both prevalence and severity of dental decay. There were also disparities in the prevalence of experience of dental decay by ethnic groups. The published report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/oral-health-survey-of-5-year-old-schoolchildren-2024/national-dental-epidemiology-programme-ndep-for-england-oral-health-survey-of-5-year-old-schoolchildren-2024>

To book an appointment for your child or for more information, please contact Sundon Dental Practice on 01582 571074.

February Half-Term Activities

Please see the links below for half-term activity ideas:

Feb Fest 26

Step Forward Luton

Central Family Hub

Barton Watermill

Luton Point

Half Term Events

Kids Eat for £1 or less



Luton Family Hubs

If you haven't already done so, please do take a look at the Luton Family Hubs website. There is an absolute wealth of information for families; healthy eating, language, development, behaviour, health, sleep, childcare the list is endless.

For information about early years,

please visit: <https://familyhubs.luton.gov.uk/early-years>

For information about healthy eating, please visit:

<https://www.firststepsnutrition.org/eating-well-early-years>



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 and Obrene McBride. 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 and closing 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 we do not have a reason, the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

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 or Bethany.



Parking

Unfortunately, we still have a small number of cars who park dangerously or inconsiderately when dropping or collecting children from nursery. We are working in conjunction with Luton Council Road Safety Team, and Parking Enforcement Officers do carry out regular patrols and will issue penalty notices to anyone parked in an illegal or dangerous manner. We kindly ask that you do not park on the path outside the gate to our staff car park, the yellow keep clear zig-zag markings, block or obstruct residents' driveways or double park on Grasmere Road or Wycombe Way, as this makes it impossible for the emergency services to drive through.

We appeal to anyone who drops or collects children from nursery, to park in a safe and legal manner, ensuring the safety of everyone.



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.



