

Newsletter

October 2026



Welcome to our October 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

Half-Term Holidays

The nursery is closed for the October half-term holidays from Monday 26th to Friday 30th October.

PLEASE NOTE:

If your child usually has a school dinner, could you please provide a packed lunch on Monday 2nd November only, as no dinners will be available

Next Half Term's Curriculum

0-3s

Purple Class

We have had a lovely half-term welcoming all our new children into Purple Class. Together, we have explored cornflour slime, pumpkins and made play-dough, exploring different textures and developing our fine motor skills. At singing time, the children have been learning to take turns and choose a song to sing and sign to.

Next half-term will be full of fun as we decorate crafts to celebrate Diwali and Christmas. The children will also investigate different sounds and instruments, with our music expert Gail coming to visit on Friday mornings. The children will also be dancing with scarves. Our love of books will continue as we explore different textures and smells in our sensory books! We hope you have a restful half-term.

Red & Silver Classes

As we move further into the autumn term, we are looking forward to a wonderful few weeks filled with exciting activities, celebrations and special experiences for the children. Our theme is 'Relationships', and our value is 'Friendship'. Throughout the coming weeks, we will be encouraging the children to explore what it means to be a good friend, how we can show kindness and respect to others, and why it is important to care for one another. Through stories, discussions, creative activities and play, we will help the children develop positive relationships, learn to share and take turns, and celebrate the things that make each of us special.

Friendship will be at the heart of everything we do this term. We will encourage the children to use kind words, help one another, celebrate each other's achievements and understand how our actions can make others feel. We will continue to support the children in developing confidence, empathy and a sense of belonging within our school community.

What's coming up?

Hibernation Day - we will be exploring the fascinating world of hibernation! The children will be saying goodnight to our pet tortoises, Phoebe and Ruby. Our children will be learning about animals that hibernate during the colder months, discover how they prepare for winter and explore where they go to sleep. We will enjoy a range of fun, hands-on activities, stories and creative experiences to bring this topic to life.

Celebrating Diwali - we will be learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. The children will discover how Diwali is celebrated by many Hindus, Sikhs and Jains around the world. Through stories, artwork, music and creative activities, we will explore some of the traditions associated with this special celebration.

Commemorating Remembrance Day - we will take time to learn about Remembrance Day in an age-appropriate and sensitive way. The children will be introduced to the significance of the poppy and explore how we remember and show gratitude to those who have helped others and worked to keep us safe. We will encourage the children to think about kindness, peace and caring for our community.

A Visit from Father Christmas - there is plenty of festive excitement to look forward to as we prepare for a very special visit from Father Christmas! The children will have the opportunity to enjoy the magic of the festive season, share in the excitement with their friends and create some lovely memories together.

Working together - thank you, as always, for your continued support. Talking with your child about what they have been learning, asking about their friendships and encouraging small acts of kindness at home can make a real difference.

3-5s

Yellow, Blue & Green Classes

We have had a busy first half term and all the children are now settled and enjoying their time at school. They are happily building relationships with the adults and their peers. They are becoming familiar with the nursery environment and routine. Next half term our theme is 'Relationships' and the Value is 'Friendship'. The children will be learning about different relationships and what makes a good friend. The season is Autumn, we will be going out into our wonderful Orchard and noticing the differences as the season changes.

Our key texts, which support the teaching of these themes, are 'Mixed' by Aree Chung and 'The Leaf Thief' by Alice Hemming. Our key rhyme is 'Autumn Leaves are Falling Down'. It would be great if you could share these books at home with your child. When we return we will be having a hibernation day as we put our school tortoises, Ruby and Phoebe, to sleep for the winter. A letter will follow.

At the beginning of the half term we will be celebrating 'Bonfire Night', 'Remembrance Day' and 'Diwali' the Hindu festival of light. Here is a link to learn all about Diwali which you and your child can watch together:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009wsf/my-first-festivals-series-1-2-diwali> In December we will be celebrating Christmas.

As we spend time outdoors everyday, the children will be learning how to put on their own coats, hats and welly boots. It would be really helpful if you could practice this at home with your child to support their independence.

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 to take 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 monitor attendance regularly and our target is 85% for all funded children. However, 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 [NHS 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: [Attendance Information](#). If you would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Lois.



Nut-Free

Please note that due to a number of very severe allergies across the whole nursery, we are a completely nut-free site. 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.

Please always read the ingredients carefully if you bring food into nursery for any reason. If you need any further information or clarification, please speak to your Class Teacher or Room Lead.

Main Gate Opening Times

Just a reminder of the main gate opening times:

8.45am – 9.05am

11.40am – 11.50am

12.30pm – 12.40pm

2.55pm – 3.05pm

3.25pm – 3.35pm



Please arrive promptly at 8.45am for morning sessions or 12.30pm for afternoon sessions. We appreciate that some parents/carers have older siblings to take to school in the morning, so the main gate is open longer in the mornings for these families only.

If you are going to be late for any reason when collecting your child, please call the office to let us know. If the gate from Icknield Way to the classrooms is closed, please drop or collect your child from Reception. All children who arrive through Reception after the classroom gate has closed will be marked as late on the register and a reason will be requested. If children are consistently late being collected, this may result in charges being applied.

Parking

Unfortunately, we 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**:

- Stop or park on the path outside the staff car park
- Stop or park on the yellow keep clear zig-zag markings
- Make three-point turns in the road
- Block or obstruct residents' driveways
- Double park on Grasmere Road or Wycombe Way, as this makes it impossible for the emergency services to drive through.

We appeal to everyone who drives to nursery, to park in a safe and legal manner, ensuring the safety of everyone.



Family Support

Please see the links below for further local and national support:

Luton Family Hubs - <https://familyhubs.luton.gov.uk/>

Flying Start - 01582 548356: www.flyingstartluton.com/

Luton Supporting You Services - <https://lutonsupportingyou.co.uk/services/>

Better Housing Better Health - <https://www.bhbh.org.uk/>

Cost of Living Support - <https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

Luton Foodbank - <https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/>

Luton Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.luton.org.uk/>

NHS Children's Health & Support - <https://www.beds.lutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/>

Childhood Illnesses - <https://cambs.lutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/common-illnesses/>

School Attendance - [Is my child too ill for school](#)

A Parent guide to regulating screen time and ideas for screen-free activities: [Parent Guide to Screen Time](#)

Parentline - For parents and carers of those aged 0-19 TEXT: 07507 331886. Parentline offers advice and support on a range of issues such as weaning, sleep and emotional health. You can also find out how to access other local services. For more information please visit: [Parentline](#)

On-line Safety - For advice on how to keep your children safe on-line visit these websites:

[Childnet](#) [NSPCC](#) [ParentSafe](#) [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Level Trust - Charity that helps families overcome the costs of education: [Level Trust](#)



Starting School in September 2027 (for children born between 01/09/2022-31/08/2023)

If your child turns four years old on or before 31st August 2027, you need to apply for an Infant/Primary school place by **15th January 2027**. Please see the "Starting School" page on our website: [Grasmere Nursery-Starting School](#) or Luton Council's starting school website for further information:

[Admissions Starting School Information](#)

Please also see the link to Luton's how to apply for a school place guide: [Applying for a school place for residents in Luton](#)



A member of the Access to Education team will be at Luton library every Friday morning to support parents with applications, these sessions are by appointment only, should you wish to attend please email accesstoeducation@luton.gov.uk with your name and contact number and they will be able to book you an appointment. All applications MUST be submitted by 15th January. If you have any questions please speak to Lois.



The Meads Primary



Be amazed! Come visit our beautiful children and school.



Tours are available for September 2027 admissions every Wednesday at 2pm.

Call the office to arrange a visit.

The Meads Primary School, Sawtry Close, LU3 2UE, 01582 490 905

The Meads - Where Values Live



Kids Eat Free and Half Term Activities

Please see the links below for activities, ideas and 'kids eat free' information:

[Luton Culture Trust](#)

[Fraser's Plus](#)

[Luton Adult Learning](#)

[Woodside Farm](#)

[Kids Eat Free](#)

[Money Magpie](#)



Child Car Seats – The Law

We are regularly speaking to parents and 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. For further information, please go to: [Gov.uk - Child Car Seats](#)



Reminders

- Please note that we are a “**nut-free setting**”, please do not bring any foods containing nuts into nursery, particularly in packed lunches.
- 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 appropriately dressed 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 or door 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, drink or medication in their bags.



A Spooktacular Morning of Magic



Join us at

Little Bramingham Farm Care Home

For a fun-filled Halloween morning featuring a Wizard magic show by Krisgar Entertainments, ballon modelling and lots more spooky fun!

Treats and refreshments will be available to purchase from Susie's Tea Room.

Children's lunch boxes are available to pre order for £6.50 please call 07884 498348. Halloween fancy dress is optional.

£1 suggested donation per person

Date: Friday 30 October 2026

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Phone: 01582 582 433

Email: LittleBraminghamFarm@fote.org.uk

Location: Little Bramingham Farm, Leamington Road
Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 3XF
www.fote.org.uk

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 Friends-of-the-Elderly

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