



Welcome to our latest Newsletter – we hope you find it useful. Please also have a look at our brand new website at www.grasmerenursery.co.uk where you will find lots more information.

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

**Our half term holidays run from Monday 13th to Friday 17th February for all term-time children.
The nursery will also be closed to all children on Monday 20th February for a staff inset day.**

This Half Term's Curriculum



It was amazing to see so many of you in school for our 'Expressive Arts and Design' day in December. We would also like to thank Father Christmas for taking time out of his very busy schedule to come and see our children too. It was a very special day and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you also to those parents who took the time to complete the evaluation questionnaire.

This half term our theme is 'People Who Help Us' and our Value is 'Love'. We have also been looking at the season 'winter'. Our key texts and rhymes for Spring 1 are:

0-3s – 'Spot Goes to the Fire Station' by Eric Hill and 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

3-5s – 'The Real Superheroes' by Julia Seal, 'Full Full Full of Love' by Trish Cooke and 'Miss Polly Had a Dolly'.

It would be lovely for you to share these books and rhymes with your children at home. I wonder what they can tell you about the stories. Please see our new website for further curriculum information.

We celebrated Chinese New Year and when focussing on the Value of 'Love' we will be learning about Valentine's Day too. We have learnt about different birds and taken part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

We use the age appropriate 'NSPCC Pants' resources to teach the children how to keep themselves safe. For more information, that you can also use at home, please use the link below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

The children love the fun and catchy song! We made our very own Pantosaurus dinosaur to go in our bathrooms in 3-5s too.

The children are learning about keeping themselves safe whilst on their tablets and on mobile phones. We teach them what to do if they see or hear something that makes them worried. On 7th February 2023, it is Safer Internet Day. Please follow the link for resources that may help you at home: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/online-safety-under-5s.pdf>

This link will also be useful for families who have older children too: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

We continue to work closely with our local community. In December we sent Christmas cards to the residents of Little Bramingham Farm Care Home. We were very lucky to receive one back for our children too and they were so pleased with our cards that they even put them on their Facebook Page! We are now pleased to announce that in February, some of the children have been invited to Little Bramingham Farm Care Home to sing a selection of nursery rhymes to the elderly residents. This is a lovely opportunity to bring some joy to the residents and an amazing experience for our children too.

From the 6th to the 12th February it is Children's Mental Health Week. Therefore, to support the charity CHUMS, we will be joining in with their 'Shine Bright Wear Bright' on February 9th. A letter will be sent out shortly with further details about how you can join in to support their campaign.

Yellow Class News

This half term Yellow Class have been very busy learning lots of new things. We welcomed new children in January and are happy to say they have all settling in well.

We have been learning about the different emergency services, how they help us and what number to call if we should need them by making posters. We all decided what we would like our role-play area to be changed into, linked to the theme 'People Who Help Us'. We now have a 'Building Site' or our '3 Little Pigs Building Site'. The children are spending lots of time sharing ideas and constructing together.

We have learnt and acted out the rhyme 'Miss Polly Had a Dolly' and then made a lovely display in the Quiet Room, where we drew round children to make them into Miss Polly and the Doctor.

For Chinese New Year we celebrated the year of the rabbit by trying different foods, including noodles, pancakes with plum sauce and cucumber and prawn crackers. We made red envelopes with a chocolate coin in to symbolise good wishes and luck for the New Year ahead. We even did lion dancing to celebrate too.

For the Big Garden Birdwatch, we used toast, lard and seeds to make bird feeders and hung them in the trees in the orchard. We made binoculars so we can all be 'twitchers' and look for different birds in the orchard.

Blue Class News

The children have returned happily to Blue Class in January 2023, following the school holidays and we have welcomed nine more children to our afternoon sessions.

We continue to care for our 3 pet guinea pigs and snail. We regularly talk about important events in the children's lives at Welcome Time and display their comments on our class room News Board.

We celebrated the Chinese Luna New Year by making lanterns and lucky coin envelopes and tasting Chinese pancakes and noodles. We have created a Fire Station role-play area as part of our theme about 'People Who Help Us' and discussed what is special to us in relation to our value of 'Love'.

Green Class News

This half term we have welcomed some new children who are settling in well. We have been learning all about "people who help us". We have made our own mobile phones to help us remember the emergency numbers: 111 and 999. We have had lots of fun dressing up as doctors, police officers and we have even made our own dentist surgery and fire engine.

We have continued to explore our creativity with lots of construction kits and small-world play. We are also building on our ideas by mark-making and choosing different materials to use in our 'creation station'.

Green Class has also celebrated Chinese New Year by collaboratively making Chinese lanterns which are the colour red to symbolise good luck. We tried new foods, including cucumber and spring roll pancakes and hoisin sauce.

We have discussed this half term's value "love" and talked about who we love and who loves us. We will be building on this by making cards and joining in with all sorts of crafts in readiness for Valentine's Day.

Red Class News

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We are welcoming our new children and settling them into Red Class, we have more children still to come. Our aim is to provide a happy, stimulating environment where they can learn and have fun.

We recently celebrated Chinese New Year where we tasted different foods. We have also enjoyed the Orchard and explored the natural world.

Purple Class News

After a lovely Christmas break we are once again settling new children into Purple Class. This is proving a very positive experience and we will be welcoming more children in the coming weeks.

Our focus for this half-term has been building relationships and having fun. We are currently making a farm display with the children painting, sticking and gluing and using our rhyme sack alongside this to promote language development.

Open Day

We will be holding an Open Day for all new/prospective parents on Saturday, 18th March from 10am to 2pm.

If you have any friends or family who are looking for a nursery place in the future, please let them know.

Staff will be on hand to answer questions, activities will be set up in each room and application forms will be available.



Stay & Play and Baby Group

Our Stay & Play sessions continue to be very busy. They are held every Friday from 9.30am to 11.00am during term time for children under 5.

We also a Baby Group for children under 18 months of age. This group is held every Friday from 1.30-2.30pm during term time.

For more information about these groups, please speak to Lois.



Gate Opening Times for Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Please note our gate opening times for morning and afternoon sessions (not including breakfast club).

Mornings: 8.45-9.05am

Afternoons: 12.30-12.40pm

We do appreciate many parents have older children to take to school first but, if possible, please do try to arrive at nursery during these times. If children are late, they do miss valuable core learning time. If you come after these times, please go to the main reception where a member of staff from your room will come and collect your child.



Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is very common and is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence. In the majority of cases the perpetrator is a partner or ex-partner, but they can also be a family member or carer – male or female.



STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Lois, our Family Worker, is a “Domestic Abuse Responder” and can help to support and signpost you to professionals who can offer specialist help and advice. If you need to speak to Lois at any time, please call or email: lrobins@grasmere.nurseryluton.com

We are also a BDAP (Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership) Support Hub. This is a safe place for victims of domestic abuse to get help and support.

For further information and support, please also see the BDAP website at: <https://bedsdv.org.uk/>

Parking

Thank you to everyone who parks in a courteous and safe manner when dropping your child at nursery. Parking is being constantly monitored and has improved somewhat but we have still had a number 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 but appeal to you to park in the proper, safe and legal manner, showing consideration for others and ensuring the safety of all.



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 sessions, please visit their website:

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



Community Garden Project

On behalf of all stakeholders, I'd like to thank the Community Garden Group for continuing to work with the school on outdoor improvements around the nursery. Their most recent project involves collaborating and teaming with Barnfield Technical College students to build a wall for our sensory garden. Work should begin in mid-March, when the ground has softened due to the freezing temperatures. I am sure our children will appreciate a real life experience of a builder's workmanship.

The Neighbourhood team have also worked tirelessly to clear the ivy in the orchard, and they are still looking for more parents and families to join them in their efforts to make our community a place to be proud of.

If you are interest in volunteering with them, please come to reception for more details.



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 make an appointment with 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 Support

Lois, our Family Worker, and Emma, our Early Intervention Worker, are here to support you in any way they can, alongside the staff in your child's Class. They 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 call or email:

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, hats, scarves and gloves (their name written on the label is good enough!). It is often 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.
- 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.
- Please do not put any foods containing nuts in packed lunches.
- Please name the outside of your child's bag.

