

Newsletter

March 2023



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

Thank you for all those who joined in with the charity event 'Shine Bright Wear Bright' during Children's Mental Health Week. We are happy to announce we raised £71.50 for the charity CHUMs, thank you for all your kind donations they were greatly received.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break and look forward to learning lots more in Summer 1!

Easter Holidays

Nursery is closed to term-time children from Monday 3rd April to Monday 17th April

The nursery is closed to all children from Friday 7th April to Monday 17th April

ALL CHILDREN RETURN ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL

This Half Term's Curriculum



0-3's

Our key text for this half term is "That's not my Chick" and the children are learning new vocabulary as the story becomes embedded. Our key rhyme is "Baa baa black sheep" which we are signing, along with our "please and thank you" song.

This half term, Red and Purple Classes have welcomed more children, who are settling in and enjoying all aspects of nursery. We have been building towers using large and small bricks and counting as we go. The children have joined in with "squiggle wiggle", making wonderful patterns to music.

Our focus has been Spring and we have planted seeds and bulbs, watering them frequently and watching them grow. Following on from this, the children walked up to the Orchard where they always enjoy exploring the natural world.

We have celebrated World Book Day, St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Ramadan and currently we are busy making Easter cards and nests.

3-5s

Our key texts and rhymes for this half term are: "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen and "Jack and the Beanstalk". It would be lovely if you could share these stories with your children at home. Can they recall the story and talk about the characters and events. Can they tell you where the blurb is?

We are also learning Max and Milly rhymes and songs from our school's strategy that we use, 'signs for feelings and behaviours'. Our theme this half term is 'Changes' and our Value is 'Happiness'.

We have learnt about Lent on Shrove Tuesday, where we followed a recipe to make delicious pancakes. We read the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' by Jan FEARLEY. We celebrated Mother's Day and hope you all enjoyed the lovely things the children said about their special person. On St. Patrick's Day we learnt about the special festival for people from Ireland. We did Irish dancing, made soda bread and learnt all about St. Patrick and how he chased all the snakes out of Ireland! Click on the links below and share with your children.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000t8l3/my-first-festivals-series-2-4-st-patricks-day>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-st-patricks-day>

We are learning about the changes around us as Winter changes to Spring. We have been scientists by doing lots of different experiments this half term, learning about the different properties of media and what happens when something is added. I wonder if you could try some at home.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/early-years-topics/early-years-science-investigation/early-years-understanding-the-world-eyfs-science-experiments>

Can you talk to your child about 'Happiness'? What makes them happy?

During our last week we have learnt about Easter. To keep our connections to our local community, we have made an Easter Card for the residents of Little Bramingham Farm Care Home. Following our successful trip to meet some of the residents and singing songs and rhymes to them, we have been invited to go over again and to make this a more regular event. This will take place in early May. This is a lovely experience for our children and the residents loved it too with a retired teacher even making requests ☺ Ruby and Phoebe our school tortoises are waking up from their long winter sleep. Therefore we have been recalling what hibernation is.

Open Day

Thank you to all the families who attended our Open Day 2023 with your children. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces as well as lots of new ones. Despite the constant rain, turnout was buoyant and we are excited for the new academic year. If your child is transitioning class within Grasmere Nursery in September 2023, the Office will be contacting you during the Summer Term to check your requirements for September. New children starting at Grasmere will have their places confirmed by the end of May 2023. If you have younger children who require a place in September 2023 and you have not applied yet, there is still time to apply. Contact admin@grasmere.nurseryluton.com or pop into the office for an application form. After the Easter Break, as the warmer weather approaches, we know this is the final term for the majority of our 3-4 year olds before moving on to Primary School in September. We hope you all have a fabulous final term at Grasmere Nursery School.



Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can include controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual 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:

lrobinson@grasmere.nurseryluton.com

For further information and support, please also see the BDAP website at:

<https://bedsdv.org.uk/>



Stay & Play and Baby Group

Our Stay & Play sessions continue to be very busy and, unfortunately, so busy on occasions that we have to turn families away.

Stay & Play is held every Friday from 9.30am to 11.00am during term time for children under 5.

Baby Group is also held every Friday from 1.30-2.30pm for children under 18 months of age.

We ask for a donation of just £1 per family per session.

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



Safeguarding

In line with Luton Council guidelines, we follow very strict safeguarding procedures at nursery. Please let us know if your child has an accident outside of nursery which results in an injury or mark (cuts/bumps/bruises, etc.), we may also speak to your child if it is appropriate.

We also ask that you do not use your mobile phone for any reason whilst on the nursery premises.



Parking

Thank you to everyone who parks in a courteous and safe manner when bringing or collecting your child from nursery. Parking is being constantly monitored and has improved but we still have issues with cars parking across the gates to our car park, on the yellow school zig-zag markings, on the pavements and across our neighbours' driveway.

We appreciate how difficult parking is but appeal to you, and anyone who brings or collects your child from nursery, to park in the proper, safe and legal manner, showing consideration for others and ensuring the safety of all.



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. The Neighbourhood team 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.



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.

Flying Start also run Parenting Puzzle and Henry Healthy Families courses. For more details, speak to Lois or see the Flying Start website.

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



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 food, drinks 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.

