




Gracelands
Nursery School

SPRING 2 - 2023

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

MARCH

31st—Break up for the Easter holiday

APRIL

3rd-14th - EASTER HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

17th - STAFF TRAINING DAY (closed to chn)

18th - Back to school (Summer 1)

MAY

1st - Bank Holiday (school closed)

8th - Bank Holiday King's Coronation (closed)

10th—Royal Coronation Celebration

17th - Pyjamarama Day—come in pyjamas and share your favourite stories

26th - Break up for the half term holiday

29th-2nd - HALF TERM HOLIDAY (1 week)

JUNE

5th - STAFF TRAINING DAY (closed to chn)

6th - Back to school (Summer 2)

8th - 7th - Transition workshop (parents of children starting Reception in September)

13th - Trip to Hatton Country Park

JULY

5th - Physical activity parent workshop

W/C 10th - Parent consultations

21st - Break up for the summer holiday (last day of nursery provision for all children)

24th - Leavers' graduation day/fun day - parents and carers invited

25th - Home visits (new starters)

26th Jul- 3rd Sep—SUMMER HOLIDAY

SEPTEMBER

4th & 5th - STAFF TRAINING DAYS

6th & 7th - Home visits (new starters)

8th - Stay and play session for all children (morning OR afternoon)



Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another half term has whizzed past! Although it has been a particularly short half term of just 5 weeks, we have managed to fit in heaps of learning, fun and togetherness.

This half term, we have had a visit from our safeguarding link governor, looking at safeguarding practices and procedures together in partnership. We were also lucky enough to receive a special visit from Nadeem,

governor, who taught us lots about staying safe on the internet on 'National Online Safety Day'. The children have particularly enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, coming to nursery dressed as favourite characters. We had lots of fun on NSPCC number day too, raising over £80 for the NSPCC.

I cannot quite believe the summer term is almost upon us, we have lots of wonderful things planned. Be sure to jot down the relevant dates for your diary to the left and take a look at what curriculum areas we will be focusing on next term on the next page. Finally, we have some very exciting news (if you haven't already seen on our social pages!)... Gracelands Nursery School received the GOLD Rights Respecting Schools award last month. This award is widely recognised and recognises all the work we do as a school on children's rights. I'd like to thank Ms Parmar and the team for their hard work and commitment in the journey to gold.

As always, reach out if you need anything. For those of you observing the month of Ramadan, may this Ramadan bring joy, health and wealth to you all. Have a lovely break and we will see you back in school from Tuesday 18th April. *Sam*



CHILDREN STARTING RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER

Please make sure you have told us what school your child will be attending in September.

Birmingham Local Authority have a transition approach whereby Early Years settings record brief information for primary schools to support transition. We need to know which school children will be attending to do this. Thank you.



Executive Head Teacher: Samantha Richards

Deputy Head Teacher: Gail Goldberg

Teacher: Harshila Parmar

Office Admin Assistant: Reem Taleb

Nursery Practitioners:

Salma Mushtaq, Sughra Sattar, Rifat Shaheen,

Sonia Parvaz, Zaryab Mahmood

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL



Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.



Contact Us
 GRACELANDS NURSERY
 SCHOOL
 Grace Road
 Birmingham, B11 1ED
 ☎ 0121 772 3124

Follow us on
 TWITTER
 @GracelandsNurs1

Follow us on
 FACEBOOK
 'GracelandsLocal Authority
 Maintained Nursery School'

Follow us on
 INSTAGRAM
 gracelandsnurseryschool

SUMMER CURRICULUM FOCUS

Children's well-being and their involvement levels continue to be of utmost importance to us.

We also have 3 main threads that run through our whole curriculum offer:

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL - HEALTH FOR LIFE - STARTWELL

Throughout the summer term, we will be focusing on:

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

- Listening and attention for short periods of time, developing engagement in adult-led activities
- Responding within back and forth conversation
- Extension of vocabulary

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Building upon friendships, considering own and others' feelings and solve conflicts

- Make healthy choices

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- A wide range of gross motor development, particularly outdoors. Focus on ball skills
- Fine motor skills. Focus on manipulating materials and mark-making

LITERACY

- Enjoying rhymes, stories and songs
- Early phonics, mainly beats and voice sounds in little nursery and initial sounds, alliteration and blending in big nursery
- Core books depth learning (see display -summer term)
- Write for a variety of purposes and write some letter shapes from their name

MATHEMATICS

- Subitising (recognising numbers (1-5) with quick recognition. 1 more and 1 less.
- Extend and create patterns
- 3D shapes

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Appreciate similarities and differences in people
- Where I live: our city, our country and our world
- Focus on minibeasts and planting

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Create own songs and explore instruments purposefully to express themselves

Children in N2/big nursery will also be extensively developing their skills for school readiness, including:

- * Independence, particularly with regards to communicating needs, taking care of personal belongings, making own choices, putting on their coat and building upon friendships.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance since September	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	76.6%
Little nursery	72%
All	74.8%
Attendance spring term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	78.6%
Little nursery	74.9%
All	77%

We understand children get ill.

See previous newsletter for the NHS advice of when children are too ill for school.

Well done to red group whose attendance has been 90% so far this term 😊

RRSA links:

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3: best interests of the child
Article 28: right to an education

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone us on the first day. Let us know that your child won't be in, giving the reason. If the phone is engaged, please leave a message.

SLEEP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN

<https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/CMS-Documents/Patient-leaflets/PaediatricDepartment/6339-1-Sleep-a-guide-for-school-age-children.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW THAT CHILDREN BETWEEN 3 AND 5 SHOULD BE GETTING BETWEEN 11-13 HOURS SLEEP A NIGHT?

DID YOU KNOW THAT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TOO CLOSE TO BED-TIME CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON SLEEP?

The above document is available online and has been produced by NHS Foundation Trust. It gives guidance on number of hours sleep needed for children of all ages, promoting sleep and bedtime routine.

5-A-DAY CHALLENGE

Easy ways to get 5 portions of fruit and vegetables into your child's diet every day:

It's as easy as 1,2,3,4,5!

- A small glass of 100% orange juice at breakfast (diluted 1 part juice to 10 parts water for children under 5)
- A handful of raisins on top of low sugar breakfast cereal or mashed banana on best-of-both toast
- Cucumber, pepper and/or carrot sticks with a dip (such as houmous) at snack time or with a meal
- Frozen peas and/or sweetcorn with an evening meal
- Fruit selection with low-sugar yoghurt

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/about-startwell/>



Startwell

FOOD BANK



We will be taking the majority of food donations to SPARKHILL FOOD BANK on Friday 31st March. We will keep a selection of food bank items for any of our families or members of our community in need. Please reach out if you would welcome support.

The area in the foyer will be cleared ready for any new food item donations after Easter for those that can spare a little, in readiness for our next food bank drop. Thank you for your support.

UNICEF Rights of the child link: **ARTICLE 27 - A RIGHT TO FOOD**



PROMOTING COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

things to ask instead of
"DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY AT SCHOOL?"

- “What is one thing you learned today?”
- “What was the best thing that happened today?”
- “Tell me about a kind choice you made today.”
- “Did anyone need help with anything today? Tell me about it.”
- “Tell me something you did that made you proud of yourself.”
- “Who did you spend time with today?”
- “What was the funniest thing that happened today?”
- “What’s something you’re grateful for today?”
- “Tell me something new you did today.”

time to talk

MEAL TIME CONVERSATION OPPORTUNITIES

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?
If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

- Tell me about one thing you learned today.
- Tell me about one mistake you made today.
- What was one kind thing you saw someone do today?
- What was your favourite part of the day today?

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny) it. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been mislaid, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety