



Gracelands  
Nursery School

AUTUMN 2 - 2023

# NEWSLETTER

## Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

### Dates for your diary



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### DECEMBER

22nd - Break up for Christmas holiday  
WB 25th - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (2 WEEKS)

#### JANUARY

8th - Back to school (Spring 1)  
15th - Reception place application deadline

#### FEBRUARY

6th - SEND coffee morning  
9th - Break up for the half term holiday  
WB 12th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)  
19th - STAFF TRAINING DAY  
20th - Back to school (Spring 2)

#### MARCH

21st - Break up for Easter holiday  
22nd—STAFF TRAINING DAY  
WB 25th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

#### APRIL

8TH - Back to school (Summer 1)

#### MAY

24th - Break up for the half term holiday  
WB 27th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

#### JUNE

3rd - Back to school (Summer 2)

#### JULY

18th - Last day of provision for all children  
19th - Graduation day for school leavers  
22nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY



### Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The lead up to the Christmas holidays always feels like a very long one but isn't it just a magical time! Thank you to all who joined for our Christmas creative workshop - crafting together really puts a smile on everyone's faces.

The staff did a wonderful job in preparing the Christmas events for the children to enjoy, and we were lucky enough to have a very special visitor during the party sessions... Ho Ho Ho!

### 'Stay and Play' information

#### **Friday's between 9:15-11am - Gracelands Nursery School**

We continue to run a weekly stay and play session for parents/carers and children under 3 years old in our stay and play room/little nursery. The feedback for this session has been overwhelmingly positive throughout this term so please help us spread the word and come along if you have younger children not yet in our Nursery. We are very pleased to be able to offer this free of charge and with at least 1 qualified Early Years practitioner to play as well as chat to and support parents and carers.

Jakeman also runs a beautifully set up 'Stay and Play' in the stay and play room at Jakeman Nursery School (Jakeman Road, B12 9NX). If you are able to travel and would like to attend (the more the merrier!), this runs:

#### **Wednesdays between 9-10:30am - Jakeman Nursery School**

#### Measles/MMR

Please do read the very important information from Birmingham Public Health on P4.

#### School Reception place applications

I believe we have spoken to the vast majority of parents now to see if applications have been made or if help is needed. Please remember the absolute deadline is midnight on 15th January (school starters only). PLEASE ASK US IF YOU STILL NEED HELP—WE CAN COMPLETE THIS WITH YOU IN SCHOOL.

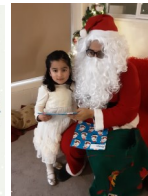
#### Happy holidays

Whilst it is a late break up for the Christmas holiday this year, please note we don't return to nursery until Monday 8th January 2024. On behalf of all the staff, we wish

you a wonderful break and a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2024. Happy New Year to all.

Thank you,

**Sam**



**Executive Head Teacher:** Sam Richards

**Deputy Head Teacher:** Harshila Parmar

**SENCO:** Gail Goldberg

**Teacher:** Laiba Sajid

**Office Admin Assistant:** Farah Shah

**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  
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gracelandsnurseryschool

Follow us on  
FACEBOOK

'Gracelands Local Authority  
Maintained Nursery School'

## SPRING 1 CURRICULUM FOCUS



This term we continued to focus on building positive relationships with adults and other children. We spoke to parents about children's interests and got to know them much better. We have been very busy with lots of different celebrations too:

- We celebrated Diwali by painting fireworks, decorating Rangoli with natural resources and painting Diwali lanterns. We had a Diwali party; children enjoyed dancing and healthy snacks.
- We celebrated 'Children in Need' and Remembrance Day.
- We went on a trip to the library (on the train!) where children in N2 had the opportunity to read and spend quality time with their parents. Children used their experience of a train journey to make a train in the building area.
- Children have learnt to make bread and playdough.
- We had a creative parent's workshop. Children and parents enjoyed making arts and crafts together.
- Children have enjoyed mark-making both indoor and outdoor using chalk, paint, water, crayons, pencils, cornflour...
- Children have particularly enjoyed the outdoor kitchen. They loved collecting leaves and natural items in the garden to mix and explore with.

### Parents can continue to:

- Talk to the children about their day
- Encourage them to hang their coats up independently
- Encourage them to find their name and stick it on the register board
- Let us know if you notice any particular interest at home
- Continue reading to your children
- Sing nursery rhymes with children at home as it will further support their vocabulary development

### Spring 1:

- We will learn about religious and cultural celebrations. (Chinese New Year, Pancake Day).
- Through our core books, (Goldilocks and the 3 bears, the three Billy goats gruff, the Tiger who came for tea) we will talk about adventure, the natural world, stranger danger awareness, friendship and kindness. The books will allow teaching of the mathematical concepts of size, comparing and ordering objects. Please see our curriculum document here <https://www.grclands.bham.sch.uk/Page/Detail/curriculum-and-pedagogy-at-gracelands> for further details.

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	77.2%
Little nursery	69.1%
<b>All</b>	<b>75.5%</b>

Our attendance has dropped over the last few weeks due to high amounts of illness and therefore the term average has dropped. We are hoping for lots of healthy children and great attendance in the spring term. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping us well informed regarding absences.

Our aspiration continues to be to reach 90% attendance.

It can be tricky—especially at this time of year—to know when to keep your child off school when they have signs of winter colds and various other illnesses are in circulation across the city.

NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' can be found here if you need to revisit it: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

RRSA links: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child links = Article 3: best interests of the child

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone nursery or leave us a message with the reason.

## SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

Do you have a child with Special Educational Needs or Disability?  
Or do you have a concern about your child's development?

Our SEND coffee mornings offer an opportunity for parents to talk together and network as well as access specialist SEND professional support.

The next scheduled SEND coffee morning is on:

**Tuesday 6th February @ 8:45am**

Special  
Educational  
Needs  
& Disabilities



## SOCIAL MEDIA

If you don't already, please follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Harshila very much enjoys posting all of the fun and learning that takes place at Gracelands through images and videos—it would be great to expand our follow base.

**Instagram account:** @gracelandsnurseryschool

**Facebook page:** Gracelands Local Authority Maintained School

# Startwell



## 2 Snacks Max

The Christmas holidays are upon us and managing snacks can become a little more challenging when the holiday days lack nursery routine. Try talking to your child about '2 Snacks Max' and encourage choosing just 2 healthy snacks for the day together, in between the 3 main meals.

As a follow up to our learning on oral health in nursery this half term, why not also take a look at the parent/carer activity advice below:

### Linked character:



### Message:

Smiley Shen is all about keeping teeth healthy by cleaning teeth twice a day and limiting sugary food and drink. It is important that you supervise tooth brushing up to 7 years of age.

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/>

### Activity:

Create a toothbrush chart to encourage children to brush their teeth twice a day. For each day of the week create two columns and ask them to put a tick in each column to monitor their toothbrushing. Remember to remind them that they need to brush for 2 minutes.

### What you need:

Toothbrush chart



## INCREASED CHILDCARE ENTITLEMENT FOR WORKING PARENTS

UP TO 30 HOURS CHILDCARE



### Free/funded child care:

Currently, all three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of free child-care or early education (over 38 weeks of the year).

Working families children of three- and four-year-olds are entitled to claim 30 hours for working families (over 38 weeks of the year).

15 hours childcare is available free/funded for disadvantaged two-year-olds (over 38 weeks of the year).

### The increased offer:

By September 2025, working parents will be able to claim 30 hours of free childcare a week, over 38 weeks of the year, all the way from when their baby is nine months up to when they start school.

The increased offer will be rolled out in stages:

**From Apr 2024** - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a 2-year-old.

**From Sept 2024** - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a child between 9 and 23 months old.

**From Sept 2025** - Up to 30 hours for eligible working families in England with a child from 9 months old up to school age.

**Working parents who individually earn more than £8,670 (from April '23) but less than £100,000 per year are eligible.**

If you're in a couple, the rules apply to both of you, so you must both earn at least £8,670 and neither one of you can earn more than £100,000.

There's more information available on the exact criteria on the Childcare Choices website.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2-YEAR-OLD 30 HOURS FROM APRIL 2024.**

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

### Road Safety

<https://capt.org.uk/pages/category/safety-advice-injury-types/>



#### **Pedestrians** – younger children

- Get young children into the habit of holding your hand or use walking reins
- Ask questions while you're out to help them understand simple ideas like 'fast' and 'slow'
- You can start teaching the Green Cross Code from age five, encouraging children to stop, look, listen and think
- But they won't always remember safety rules, especially if they're excited or spot a friend across the road
- Children will copy what you do, so try to avoid stepping into the road without checking for traffic first. If you can do the right thing, it will help them get into good habits.



**Driving** – speed is everything when it comes to a child's chances of survival. They're 3.5 times more likely to die if hit by a car doing between 30-40 mph.

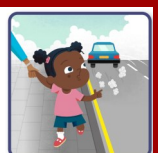
- Keep an eye on your speed

child accident prevention trust



I might run off and get hit by a car

Department for Transport



# MEASLES/MMR UPDATE BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC HEALTH

Measles cases have been confirmed locally in Birmingham. Measles outbreaks can happen when not enough children have been vaccinated. **Please check that your child has been vaccinated.**

## About measles

Measles is highly infectious (it can spread easily from person to person). While most people recover completely within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with **two doses of MMR** is the only way to give people maximum protection.

The **first signs of measles** are:

- ♦ high temperature
- ♦ runny or blocked nose
- ♦ sneezing
- ♦ cough
- ♦ red, sore, watery eyes

rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)

Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women and people with weak immunity.

## The MMR vaccine

If your child has not received **two doses of MMR vaccination** as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child now. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can check in your child's red book or contact your GP to check.

The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles as it is:

- effective
- safe and
- free of charge

The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella.

**The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry, at around 3 years, 4 months.** However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any later age. If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated.

**If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products.**

This is especially important when measles is circulating because any child or adult who has not had at least one dose of MMR and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be **excluded from nursery or school for 21 days and stay at home.**

## What to do if you think your child has measles

If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles and not attend the surgery unless you are asked to.

The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.

People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others **for 4 days after the start of the rash.** Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school, group activities and gatherings during that time.

Further information on the MMR vaccine can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

