




Gracelands
Nursery School

SUMMER 2 - 2023

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

JULY

- 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 - STAFF TRAINING DAY
- 5th & 6th - Home visits (new starters)
- 7th & 8th - Stay and play sessions for all
- 11th/13th- Back to school (Autumn 1)
- 15th - STAFF TRAINING DAY (closed to chn)
- 27th - New parents induction meeting

OCTOBER

- 11th - Oral health parental workshop.
- 25th - Reading parental workshop
- 27th - Break up for the half term holiday
- WB 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

- 6th - Back to school (Autumn 2)
- 17th - Children in Need

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY 2024

- 8th - Back to school (Spring 1)

FEBRUARY 2024

- 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 2024

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

APRIL 2024

- 8TH - Back to school (Summer 1)

MAY 2024

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

JUNE 2024

- 3rd - Back to school (Summer 2)

JULY 2024

- 19th - Last day of term
- 22nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is quite unbelievable that we have come to the end of the academic year. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun—as they say! The summer term has been a particularly lovely one: seeing lots of the children in little nursery develop even more confidence, and lots of the children in big nursery mature, both individually and within their friendship groups. We definitely have a group of children ready to spread their wings and head off to primary school.

Here are some of the children's feelings about leaving Gracelands & what they'll miss the most:

"I will miss playing football with my friend in the garden."

"I will miss sitting and talking to my friends."

"I will miss reading stories with my friends."

"I like making the witches house with the blocks."

"I like looking for ladybirds and bugs in the garden."

"The climbing frame because I can climb up high."

"I like riding the bike in the garden."

For those that are leaving, please know that the children become part of the Gracelands family during their time here and will be missed so very much—please do come back to say hello when you can! For those that are returning, we will see you eager and ready to learn in September.

It has been my absolute privilege being the Head Teacher at Gracelands this year and working alongside such a fantastic, dedicated staff team.

I wish you all a lovely summer break. Remember, making the happiest of memories often comes as a result of doing the things that come free in life: a little bit of dedicated time, playing together and being in the great outdoors.



Thank you parents for your continued support. *Sam*

Family time is the best time.

Carmelo Anthony

2023-24 TEAMS

Senior Leadership Team

Sam Richards (Executive Head & DSL)
Harshila Parmar (Deputy Head & DSL)
Gail Goldberg (SENCO & DSL)

Admin Team

Farah Qurayshi (Office Admin)
TBC (Finance)

Little Nursery Team (N1)

Sonia Parvaz (Nursery Officer)
Zaryab Mahmood (Nursery Officer)
Esha Khan (Nursery Officer)

Big Nursery Team (N2)

Laiba Sajid (Teacher)
Salma Mushtaq (Teaching Assistant - am)
Sughra Sattar (Teaching Assistant)
Rifat Shaheen (Nursery Officer)

*Reminder - first name basis for staff from September

Contact Us

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Maintained Nursery School'



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gracelandsnurseryschool



AUTUMN 1 CURRICULUM FOCUS



Our curriculum focus, particularly in the first part of the autumn term, will be centred around children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) - focusing on *secure* transition for all children. It can feel like a new beginning after the summer holiday, even for our returning children. Building *secure* relationships with adults and peers, settling in to the routine and feeling *secure* in the environment are all such important aspects to develop to enable children to access the full curriculum.

The full curriculum that we have designed and follow at Gracelands can be found on the website here:

<https://www.grclands.bham.sch.uk/Page/Detail/curriculum-and-pedagogy-at-gracelands>

During the autumn term, there will also be a high focus on keeping ourselves healthy, with a particular emphasis on feelings, emotions, oral health and hand washing.



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

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

| Attendance since September | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Attendance % |
| Big nursery | 77.9% |
| Little nursery | 67.6% |
| All | 75% |
| Attendance summer 1 (this half term) | |
| | Attendance % |
| Big nursery | 77.4% |
| Little nursery | 64.5% |
| All | 74.4% |

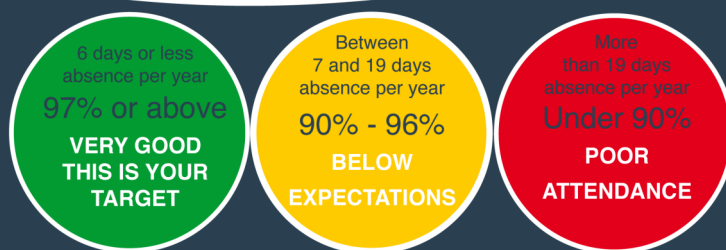
We continue to have concerns over our average attendance because we can only teach our intended curriculum to children when they are in nursery. We understand a significant amount of extended leave/holiday this half term has impacted on our summer term attendance. Our aspiration is to get to 90% attendance next year. We will continue our collaborative work and commitment - as school and parents together - in trying to maximise all round achievement for children.

RRSA links:

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3: best interests of the child

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.

NATIONAL EDUCATION NATURE PARK PROJECT

Since starting this project, we have been exploring our outdoor environment to:

- Look at habitats and where creatures live
- Experiment with creating a home for a creature, thinking about the environment they like and why
- Consider different shapes and sizes of various natural objects, such as leaves, stones, sticks and trees
- Learn about orienteering and early mapping skills
- Appreciate the fruit and vegetables we grow in our garden and how we can harvest and eat them (sustainability)

We are very excited to build on this exploration next year with our children, to continue learning how to look after our environment in the most sustainable way.



We're a National Education
Nature Park pilot school

nhm.ac.uk/education-nature-park



2023



STARTWELL SUMMER CHALLENGE



Startwell
Being active, eating well, achieving more.

Summer Challenge

6 Weeks
6 Challenges

...are you ready for the Startwell Summer Challenge?

Physical Challenges Food Challenges

Startwell have created a fun 6 week summer challenge which has a food and physical challenge for each week of the summer holidays. The challenges all link in the Startwell characters and messages, and should be easy to complete at home.

You can find the full challenge here: <https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-Startwell-Summer-Challenge-2023.pdf> A simplified, visual version can be found on the final page of this newsletter.

MISS PARMAR'S SUMMER CHALLENGE 1

To visit your local parks or wildlife areas and look at all the different plants, animals and insects you can find. Can you also identify the different smells and sounds on your walks?

In the locality: Farm Park, Eco Park—Hobmoor Road, Sparkhill Park and Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park—next to Cannon Hill Park.



MISS PARMAR'S SUMMER CHALLENGE 2

Every day, can you encourage your child/children to engage in a 'wake up - shake up' activity, following videos such as 'Koo Koo Kangaroo' (dancing) to keep them active with a raised heartrate for at least 10 minutes.



THANK YOU FROM ALL THE STAFF

Thank you for joining us in celebrating Eid al-Adha. The picnic in the park was a great success with an abundance of community spirit on full display as parents, children and staff all spent time together.

It has been a wonderful year at Gracelands and we thank you for your commitment and support. We look forward to seeing our families return in September and we also look forward to seeing the new families joining the Gracelands community.

Better
TOGETHER



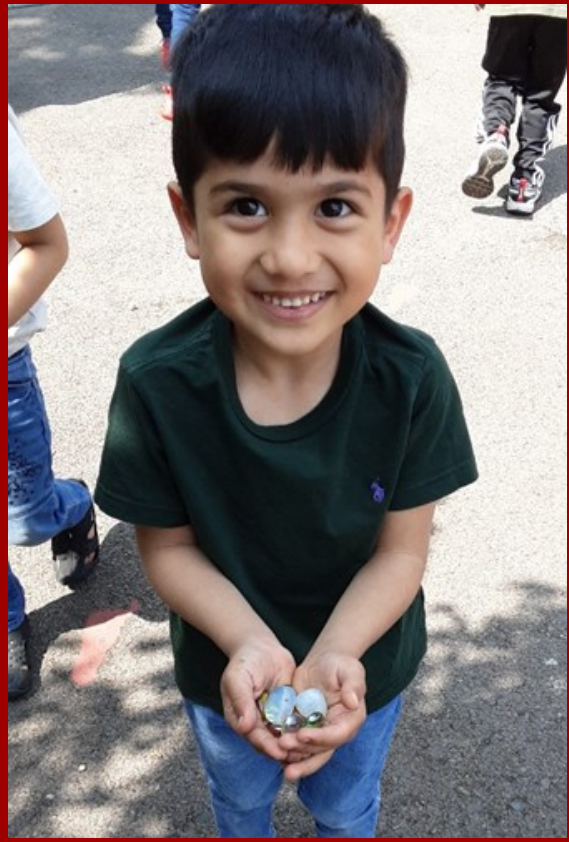
PARADISE
BANQUETING



GRADUATION REMINDER AND THANK YOU

WHAT: Graduation event
WHERE: Paradise Banqueting (B11 1DS—Montgomery St)
WHEN: Monday 24th July 2023
TIME: 9:30-11:30am
WHO: Children leaving in July to go to school and families
Come and join us to give the children a special Gracelands goodbye!

A huge THANK YOU goes to Paradise Banqueting for their charitable hospitality for this event.



Startwell Summer Challenge

Being active, eating well, achieving more.

6 Weeks

6 Challenges

...are you ready for the Startwell Summer Challenge?

Physical Challenges

Food Challenges

1. World Athletics Championships



Week 1

1. Make a fruit rainbow!



2. Crazy Cricket



Week 2



2. Role play food shop



3. Den Making

Week 3

3. Food Science



4. Go Golf Crazy



Week 4



4. Grow your own food

5. Summer walk



Week 5

5. Food Hunt



6. Football Fun

Week 6



6. Find, read and get active with food based stories