



Gracelands
Nursery School



SPRING 2 - 2025

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

APRIL

WB 14th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)
16th - Primary school place offer day
28th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)

MAY

5th - Bank holiday (nursery closed to all)
13th - SEND parent coffee AM & PM (May)
14th - Parent meeting (transition focus)
23rd - Break up for the half term holiday
26th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

JUNE

2nd - Back to nursery (Summer 2)
11th - Family Eid celebration event
16th - Attwell Farm Park TRIP
23rd - Parent consultations N2
30th - Parent consultations N1

JULY

1st - SEND parent meeting
9th - N2 (big nursery) sports day/physical games family session
16th - N1(little nursery) sports day/physical games family session
17th - Graduation event (provision closed for all AM, open as usual for non-graduates PM)
18th - Open for returners, break up for the summer holiday

SEPTEMBER

1st&2nd - Staff TRAINING DAYS
3rd - Home visits for new starters
4th - Stay and play PM
5th - Stay and play AM
8th - Usual provision commences (Aut 1)

OCTOBER

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

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for reading our Spring 2 newsletter. It has been such a treat to have sunshine and blue skies over the last few weeks—I do hope some warm weather continues into the Easter break so you can enjoy family time in the outdoors where possible.

Thank you families!

Thank you to all families that attended the workshops we've had this term, and a special thank you to all those that were able to participate in some Easter crafts at the recent Easter workshop

session this week.

Church Visit

On Thursday last week, children in N2 (big nursery) walked to Christ Church and had a wonderful interactive session led by Reverend Toby. He talked to us about what happens when Christians use their place of worship. Children and adults enjoyed some singing and playing of instruments. It made complete sense to visit the park on the way back!

New under 2's provision at Jakeman Nursery School

We are expanding our age range to take under 2s at Jakeman Nursery School—our sister school (2 miles away, 9 min drive) from September 2025. We are currently 85% at capacity with limited spaces left. If you or your family or friends may have a baby from 9months old that will require a nursery place from September onwards, please do consider Jakeman Nursery School with day-care for provision from 9months-2yrs.

There is lots happening over the summer term so do keep an eye on dates. We wish you all a lovely break and we'll see you back on Monday 28th April. *Sam*

HAPPY
Easter

PHOTOGRAPHER AT NURSERY!

The photographers will be in nursery on Weds 14th May.

Family photos can be had between 08:15-09:00 and 12:30-13:00. We will organise individual photos and Jakeman sibling photos for the rest of the day.



SESSION TIMES REMINDER:

Half day mornings: 08:30-11:30

Half day afternoons: 12:30-15:30

Full days: 09:00-15:00

Additional hours can be purchased—please speak to the office.

Please do try to collect on time.

Executive Head Teacher: Sam Richards

Deputy Head Teacher: Harshila Parmar

SENCO: Gail Goldberg

Teacher: Nagina Kouser

Office Admin Assistant: Abdillahi Omer

Nursery Practitioners: Salma Mushtaq, Sughra Sattar, Rifat Shaheen, Sonia Parvaz, Zaryab Mahmood & Ammara Usman

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



Contact Us

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☎ 0121 772 3124

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TWITTER

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gracelandsnurseryschool

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'Gracelands Local Authority
Maintained Nursery School'

CURRICULUM FOCUS



This half term, the children have been doing lots of planting which has linked with our core stories Jack and the beanstalk(N2) and Jasper's Beanstalk (N1). The children planted beans, sunflower and cress seeds. They have observed the changes seeds and plants go through as well as learning how to care for growing plants. They also looked very closely at the different parts of plants using magnifying glasses. The children have planted seeds for fruit and vegetables outside ready to replant them into the garden once big enough. This half term the children have also been observing the two cherry trees, fig tree and pear tree to see how they are changing as we go deeper into spring.

Both rooms this half term we have been exploring the techniques of Vincent Van Gogh, how he used the technique of carefully observing and painting fine details, and adding different materials to layer & sculpt. The children have enjoyed creating pictures inspired by Van Gogh. Making use lots of opportunities to mix paints and make observational drawings using magnified glasses, all while talking to each other about their art.

The children have been making comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity. They have used tape measures and rulers to measure heights of their friends and adults as well as measuring objects around the room. The children have made great links to the core book Jack and the beanstalk, through exploring growth and height.

Last Friday, another group of our children attended a story session at Montgomery School. The children enjoyed stories read to them by the school's reception teachers. We look forward to visiting again next term with another group of children.

N1 have also been busy exploring lifecycles by welcoming two sick insects that have hatched and are thriving.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance autumn term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	77%
Little nursery	74%
All	76%
Attendance spring term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	81%
Little nursery	77.3%
All	80%

The spring term has seen an increase in attendance from last term - keep it up children and parents/ carers! :-)

We want every child to access as much of their education entitlement as possible.

Our aspiration is to get to 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. The NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' is useful to refer to if you are unsure: <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

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.

SPRING 2

We wait in anticipation for more of our stick insects to hatch and are looking forward to getting our caterpillars in June.

Children will further investigate lifecycles and will explore the outdoors, enhanced by the new resources bought through our Nature Park Project grant. Children are excited to find the different habitats and creatures that live within our garden space. We have been fortunate to see some species of birds back into the garden since the introduction of our bird feeding stations.

Part of our early phonics work will see a greater exposure to rhyme in little nursery and in big nursery, a focus on initial sounds and alliteration (words in a sentence or phrase that start with the same sound, e.g. Layana likes lemon lolly-pops) and oral blending (e.g. Can you get your c-oa-t, coat?).



Startwell

Regular physical activity in children is associated with improved learning/ attainment, better mental health, healthier hearts through cardiovascular fitness, which all contribute to having a healthy weight.

There is growing concern about the lack of physical activity opportunities and the increase in inactivity of children in early years which can lead to weight gain, lower attainment levels and poor wellbeing. This could be down to the amount of technology that is available to children, not using the outdoor environment, and being focussed on sitting activities rather than movement.

Encourage active play in the home: Engage in games like hide and seek, video yoga, obstacle courses, dance offs and follow the leader—anything to get the belly button moving!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Hi, I'm Active Azra. My job is to remind children to:
'Move more, sit less and get those belly buttons on the move!'



Active Azra



Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

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

SUN SAFETY

Children and sun protection

Take extra care to protect babies and children. Their skin is much more sensitive than adult skin, and damage caused by repeated exposure to sunlight could lead to skin cancer developing in later life.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>

When your child is in nursery, please ensure:

- ♦They have their shoulders covered e.g. cap-sleeve T-shirts
- ♦They have a sun hat with them, with their name in
- ♦Children have sunscreen applied onto their exposed skin before attending their session
- ♦For children that attend nursery for full days, they have a bottle of SPF 30 or SPF 50 sunscreen cream to remain in nursery, with their name on

♦Please refrain from sending your child in with open toe shoes/sandals.

We have bikes outside and heavy building blocks that children play with so toes must be covered for safety.

The above is important for all children, regardless of skin type.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES



The following website shares very important information and tips on keeping children safe:

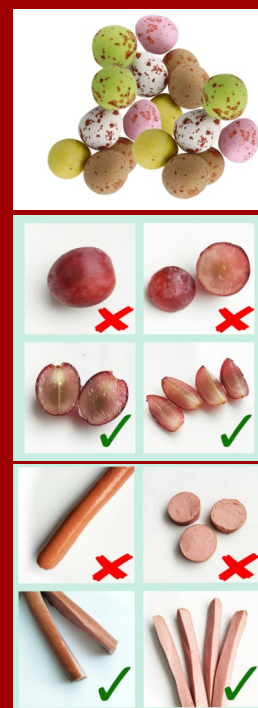
<https://capt.org.uk/>

As the holidays approach, we remind you of the choking hazard that small spherical objects and sweets, such as 'mini eggs', pose.

Sweets this size are the same size as children's airways and can easily get stuck, causing silent choking.

Things to remember:

- Children can choke at any age. Young children are at greater risk.
- Remember to supervise children when eating to minimise risk
- Cut lengthways and quarters—grapes, strawberries, cherries, small tomatoes and sausage rounds chunks
- Babies and toddlers put things in their mouths. It's how they explore. So they can choke on small objects in their reach





Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

