




Gracelands
Nursery School

SUMMER 2 - 2025

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

2025/26

SEPTEMBER

1st&2nd - Staff TRAINING DAYS (1&2 OF 5)
3rd - Home visits for new starters
4th - Stay and play PM
5th - Stay and play AM
8th - Usual provision commences (Aut 1)
19th - Weekly 'stay and play' resumes (09:15)
WB 22nd - Home reading books start
24th - Induction & Tapestry parent meeting

OCTOBER

WB 6th - Harvest Festival food bank donations
8th - Staff TRAINING DAY (3 OF 5)
WB 13th - Parent consultation meetings
24th - Break up for half term
WB 27th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

3rd - Back to nursery (Autumn 2)
24th - Staff TRAINING DAY (4 OF 5)

DECEMBER

19th - Break up for Christmas holiday
WB 22nd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

JANUARY

5th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)

FEBRUARY

13th - Break up for half term
WB 16th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)
23rd - Back to nursery (spring 2)

MARCH

27th - Break up for Easter holiday
WB 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

APRIL

13th - Back to nursery (summer 1)

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for coming over to the final newsletter of the year.

Firstly, we'd like to say a massive thank you to Nagina, who is leaving us this week; she has been wonderful and will be greatly missed.

With a goodbye always comes a new 'hello'! We are lucky enough to be expanding our team and welcoming 2 new staff to Gracelands in September. Welcome to both Sophie and Mevish, who will be in the 3&4 year olds room with Sughra.

Feedback

Having reviewed the parent survey responses, we thought it would be nice to share some of your lovely comments:

'Outstanding school and hope will be again and again.. Really appreciate and grateful.'

'V good staff to help my son to learn to stay in class and play with other kids. I wish more to develop this nursery and to help more kids.'

'Well managed and highly trained team who are kind and responsible.'

'I had the chance to deal with some of the staff directly... who are brilliant, they really made a change. ___ is a mum to all the kids. Her patience, consistency & hard work is unbelievable.'

'I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Gracelands Nursery School for the outstanding support they provide to children with Special Educational Needs and everyone and their families. The dedication, care, and love the entire team shows is truly exceptional.'

Thank you for your hard work this year... and all the nursery staff for making a safe environment for my child to attend and learn.' *'Amazing nursery with great staff!'*

We've also had some very helpful feedback that will help us to develop and move forward—we'll share with you how we act upon this feedback next term.

If you haven't responded yet and would like to, you can find it here: <https://forms.office.com/e/37CP5WW5LV>

Thank you

Well that brings another academic year to a close! I am going into the summer holiday absolutely full of gratitude. Gracelands is a wonderful place to be, and it's our whole staff team and our families that make this the case. Thank you.

For those of you leaving as your child embarks on a new journey, please come back to see us! 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 and the Gracelands team x

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

50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 5 (IN BIRMINGHAM!)

<https://birmingham.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/before-youre-five>

Follow the link to a menu of fun, affordable ideas for play and learning with your child under 5 in Birmingham. Visit the webpage above or download the mobile app for the full experience (it has had a revamp!).



Contact Us

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

Follow us on
TWITTER

@GracelandsNurs1



Follow us on
FACEBOOK

'Gracelands Local Authority
Maintained Nursery School'



Follow us on
INSTAGRAM

gracelandsnurseryschool



CURRICULUM FOCUS

LEARNING

SUMMER 2

There has been lots of high focus within our indoor and outdoor studios. The children have been learning about Jackson Pollock and the techniques he uses within his art. This has generated lots of discussions about how to make the marks that the children are intending to use.

There has been a significant interest in the canopy and big block area. Children have been fascinated in building enclosures. This has generated lots of discussion about size, particularly height, with children measuring their building against their own height. Lots of conversations occurred whilst building the enclosures as to what blocks to use, where and why. The children have used a variety of different ways to measure the height, length and width of their buildings.

Our trip to Atwell farm was a roaring success, with the children enjoying the opportunity to get up close with a variety of animals, including ferrets, stick insects and giant African snails.

In June, just after Eid ul-Adha, we had a wonderful celebration together with a fantastic turn out from our children, extended families, and our wider school community. We had a lot of fun with balloonists, face painting, henna artists and lots of food! All funds raised will go back into the curriculum for children.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance this year (2024/25)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	82.6%
Little nursery	81%
All	82.1%

Attendance summer term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	83.6%
Little nursery	84.7%
All	84%

Attendance has brilliant during the summer term. This has had a positive impact on our overall attendance for the year which sits at 82.1%... in comparison to last year's 76.5%.

We are all working hard together to help children access as much early education in nursery as possible.

Our aspiration is to get to 90% attendance.

It can be tricky to know when to keep your child off school, especially when they have signs of 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/>

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 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.

AUTUMN 1

Our curriculum focus, particularly in the first part of the autumn term, will be centered around children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) - focusing on secure transition for all children.

Building secure relationships with adults and peers, settling in to the routine and feeling secure in the environment are important aspects to develop to enable children to thrive and engage in learning. We'll work hard to facilitate rekindling of any previous friendships and building new ones too!

The autumn term will have a high focus on keeping ourselves healthy, with a particular emphasis on feelings, emotions, oral health and hand washing.

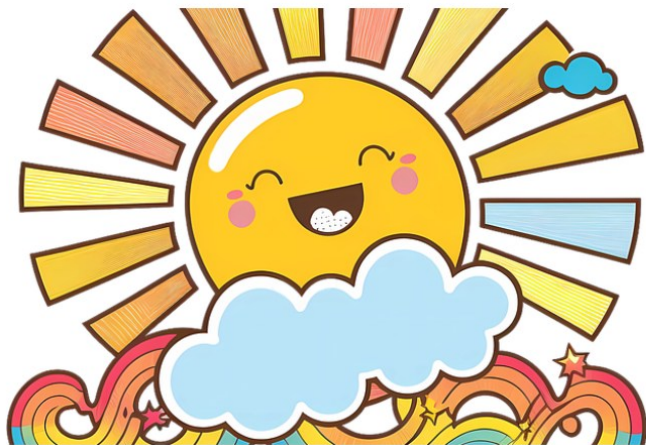
Possible lines of enquiry we will explore (but may change depending on the children's interest):

- Different types of houses and homes
- Autumn colours and changes in the environment - autumn walks
- People who help us
- Oral health and visiting the dentist





THE 6 WEEK SUMMER CHALLENGE 2025



SUMMER CHALLENGE

Startwell have created another fun 6 week summer challenge for 2025 which has a food and physical challenge for each week of the summer holidays.

The challenges all link to the Startwell characters and their key messages can be shared at home.

The summer challenge is on the final 2 pages, or click here to view more on the webpage:

<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/the-6-week-summer-challenge-2025/>

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

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

PREPARING FOR NURSERY

Things parents can do to support their child to come back to nursery in September, or if they are starting nursery for the first time:

- Encourage children to undress and dress themselves, buttons and zips can be tricky and take lots of practice. This supports children's confidence and independence, as well as fine and gross motor skills.
- Encourage children to drink from an open cup (no bottles or beakers), support children's independent eating using a spoon and folk.
- Soothers, such as a dummy, can be very difficult to part with, but start by having short times where you encourage your child to not have their dummy and increase the time slowly. This will support your child to cope without a dummy while they are at nursery and support them when it is time to part with the dummy for good.
- Encourage children to wash their hands after toileting or a nappy change, or before eating. This supports their hygiene routines.
- Support children to tidy up by putting their toys back in a basket, this helps them to understand about taking care of their environment.
- Use everyday opportunities to talk about what children can see, smell and hear. This supports their senses.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

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

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

CAPT have put together a feature on:

'6 dangerous products to avoid this summer'.

We tend to think 'If I can buy it for my child, it must be safe'. But sadly, that isn't always true.

To help you spot which products to avoid this summer, they've highlighted some of the big risks to your child's safety below.

1. Magnetic water balloons
2. Neck floats
3. Mermaid tails and monofins
4. Swim vests from unknown sellers
5. Toys with easy-access button batteries
6. Water beads

Visit the summer safety page to read more about each product and scroll down for some top tips on how to shop safely this summer: <https://capt.org.uk/6-dangerous-products-avoid-this-summer/>





6 Week Summer Challenge

Physical Challenges

Food Challenges

OBSTACLE COURSES

The 6 week holidays are underway and we want you to get things started by creating an obstacle course with Sammy skills! Have stations for running, jumping and throwing.

Focussed Skills: Locomotor, Stability & Manipulative Skills



Week 1

EAT A RAINBOW

See if you can create a rainbow using images of 7 different coloured fruit and vegetables. Then pick one or two and taste them for a healthy snack.

Focussed Skill: Recognising Different Fruit and Vegetables



WALKING



Walking is a great way to get your belly buttons moving with Azra, so why not use this opportunity to introduce different styles of walking to the children such as giant steps, tip toe walking, crocodile steps, walking backwards and forwards. Or go for a walk in your local area.

Focussed Skills: Self Awareness and Spatial Awareness

Week 2

ROLE PLAY CAFE

Can the children create a café for their toys? What healthy food would they give them? Talk about the portion size adults would need compared to the children.

Focussed Skill: Recognising Ingredients



CATCH AND THROW

Catching and throwing are hard skills to master and need lots of practice. Remember to start with bigger items and move onto smaller items. Beach balls and balloons are great starting points. To extend it, try aiming at targets and reducing the size of the object whilst increasing the distance

Focussed Skill: Manipulative



Week 3

SEED PLANTING



Chop some fruits or vegetables in half to reveal the seeds inside (e.g. bell pepper, kiwi, apple, melon, squash). Talk about what the seeds are and do. Remove some

of the seeds, dry them and then plant them in compost. See what comes up!

Focussed Skill: Understanding How Food Grows

Physical Challenges

Food Challenges

DANCE

Dancing is a great way to get your bodies moving, so why not use this opportunity to introduce different styles of music and dance to the children and get them to create different dance moves. Remember to include fast paced music to get the heart going BOOM BOOM BOOM!

Focus: Incorporating high intensity activity into daily routine



Week 4

FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Show the children a globe or map of the world. See if you can find a variety of different fruit and veg from different countries and prepare them for snack.

Talk about where the foods are grown and how they look different on the outside and inside.

Focussed Skill: Exploring Foods, Chopping and Cutting

WATER PLAY

Can you move more and sit less this week through a range of water-based activities? We want you to try water painting with large brushes outside, make water flow tubes, chase bubbles,

create puddles to jump in and get those belly buttons on the move like Active Azra.

Focus: Move More Sit Less



Week 5

FOOD HUNT

Make a list of food items you have available and call them out at random for the children to find. Hide them outdoors if you can! Once foods have been found, ask the children if they are healthy/kind for our teeth? If they are they can be placed on a picture of a happy tooth and if not on a picture of a sad tooth.

Focussed Skill: Following rules and instructions and what food is good for our teeth



RUNNING AND ROLLING

We want you to see how fast you can run up a hill but then can you roll back down it and repeat again and again? If you get tired try walking up the hill and rolling down slowly

Focussed Skill: Locomotor Development



Week 6

LET'S DO LUNCH

The children will love to make their own lunch. Cut English muffins in half and get the children to top with cheese and chopped vegetables then grill. If you don't have access to an oven, they can fill their own pitta pockets with grated cheese, hummus, chopped vegetables etc...

Focussed Skills: Chopping, Cutting and Peeling

