




Gracelands
Nursery School

SPRING 2 - 2026

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

MARCH

WC 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

APRIL

13th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)

15th - Early writing 'learn together' parent workshop

MAY

4th - Bank holiday (nursery closed)

13th - PHOTO DAY!

19th - N2 school transition parent meeting

20th - Reading parent workshop (external specialist)

22nd - Break up for half term

WC 25th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

JUNE

5th - Eid community party at Gracelands

9th - Community Autism Team (CAT) transition parent workshop/meeting 10:30-11:30 & 12:30-1:30

10th - Animal man in nursery

18th - Nursery and family trip to Twycross Zoo

22nd - Parent consultations

JULY

1st - N1 Oral Health Parent workshop

8th - N2 Sports Day

9th - N1 Sports Day

16th - Graduation event for school leavers (PM provision only)

17th - AM provision only

WC 20th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (6 weeks)

SEPTEMBER

1st (Tuesday) - TRAINING DAY

2nd (Weds) - Home visits for new starters

3rd (Thurs) - TRAINING DAY

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Although this half term has been a shorter 5 week block, it has been wonderful and full to the brim: Lunar New Year cooking, World Book Day, parent consultations, Eid & Easter family crafting session & lots of exploration of nature 'springing' to life in our garden! Little nursery also went on a local walk to visit Christ Church this week. (photos ↓)

Parent governor election

I will write to you after the Easter break, but parents across the 9 of our Federation Nursery Schools have successfully elected 2 new parent governors. Governance of our group of schools is a huge but rewarding responsibility and we look forward to working with both Aimee and Rumman.

Collection times

Please accept my polite request of collecting children at either of our door opening times: 3pm or within the 3:25-3:30pm window. If you need to collect your child before 3:25pm due to finish times of older siblings, please come at 3pm.

As well as teaching staff and the wider group of children being interrupted during their story and song sessions, parents and children in and out in between our 2 door opening times poses a safeguarding risk, which we absolutely must keep as minimal as possible.

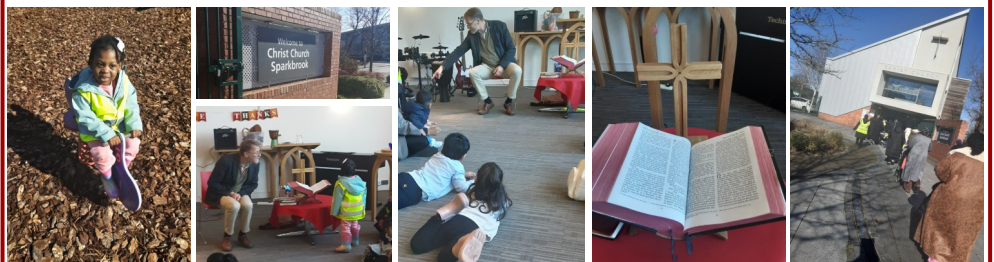
Big Walk and Wheel

On that note, children have been participating in the Big Walk and Wheel for the past fortnight and making an effort to walk or scoot to Nursery, or for part of the journey to Nursery where possible. This is great for getting children moving and also for playing our little part in air pollution and road congestion. Let's see if we can keep this momentum up, continuing with establishing these great habits and routines.

Screen time guidance

The government have released brand new guidance for screen time for children under 5 years old. Please read the section on page 3 to visit the link and find out more.

Finally, Happy Easter to those celebrating, enjoy some family time together and look after yourselves. See you back on Monday 13th April. **Sam**



Executive Head Teacher: Sam Richards

Deputy Head Teacher: Harshila Parmar

SENCO: Gail Goldberg

Teacher: Sophie Cameron

Office Admin Assistant: Abdi Omer

Nursery Practitioners: Salma Mushtaq, Sughra Sattar, Sonia Parvaz, Rifat Shaheen, Zaryab Mahmood (mat leave), Ammara Usman, Mevish Rehmat & Ayah Masood

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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@GracelandsNurs1



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Maintained Nursery School'



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CURRICULUM FOCUS


LEARNING

This half term has been full of curiosity, creativity and celebration.

 **Core Texts:** Our stories have taken us on many adventures. We climbed into traditional tales with Jack and the Beanstalk and Jasper's Beanstalk, using these texts to inspire planting, growth and early scientific thinking. We explored shape and imagination through 10 Black Dots, went searching for clues in We're Going on an Egg Hunt, and learned about new beginnings and kindness through The Easter Story. Big nursery were very lucky to have a visit from Reverend Toby who talked about Easter and why Christians celebrate. Little nursery met Reverend Toby when they visited Christ Church to find out more about Easter.

 **Celebrations:** We embraced a range of cultural and seasonal celebrations. The children enjoyed learning about Lunar New Year, creating crafts and exploring traditions. We marked Mother's Day with heartfelt cards and songs, and explored the meaning of Ramadan through stories and discussion. As Easter approached, we shared books, created themed crafts and took part in festive activities. Thank you to all parent carers that attended our family session. World Book Day was a highlight — we celebrated some of our favourite stories. The children's costumes were fantastic and added so much excitement to the day.

 **Seasonal Change:** As spring arrived, we used our noticing skills to observe signs of new life in the natural world. The children explored buds, blossoms and changes in the weather.

 **Cooking:** We enjoyed hands-on cooking experiences this term, making delicious stir fry linked to the Chinese culture. The children have been learning about keeping their bodies healthy through our Startwell character 'Fay five day' and have been busy making fruit kebabs and cous-cous full of vegetables. We also had a treat making Easter nests!



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

2025-26 year to date	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	86%
Little nursery	79%
All	84%
Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	89%
Little nursery	83%
All	87%

Attendance is up by 5% in both rooms this half term! Well done everyone! :-)

Please take the time to read our attendance policy and support approach, this can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4jrnpxr>

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

Our aspiration is to reach 90% attendance this year.

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. Hopefully the NHS guidance 'Too Ill For

School?' below will help.


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


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.

CONTINUED...

 **Creative Learning:** Our artist focus this half term was Vincent Van Gogh. The children explored his work and took inspiration from the world around them, particularly through observational painting of flowers. The children have been learning about the different techniques he used with the help of our resident artist, Sally, and have loved the work revamping some vintage chairs. Their artwork has been full of colour, detail and expression.

 **Phonics & Music:** In early phonics, we developed our understanding of initial sounds, explored rhyme, and practised clapping syllables in our names. We also explored rhythm and beat through rock music, helping the children tune into patterns in sound.

 **Maths:** Our mathematical learning has included exploring capacity, shape, length and height. The children have enjoyed hands-on activities that encouraged comparing, measuring and problem-solving.

 **Large-Scale Projects:** Imagination has been at the heart of our construction and creative play. The children worked together on large-scale builds including castles, dragons and towering beanstalks, inspired by our core texts and interests.

It has been a joyful and enriching half term full of discovery and growth. Well done nursery for another super half term! 🌟



EASTER ACTIVITIES WITH SAMMY SKILLS

Startwell is promoting Easter holiday activities that focus on lots of physical movement.

Visit the webpage to find out more detail of at-home easy to set up activities:

[Easter Activities with Sammy Skills and the Startwell](#)

[Characters - Startwell 2020](#)

Many families enjoy cultural traditions at Easter, such as Easter eggs, which symbolise **new life and new beginnings**.

The Easter Bunny is also used as a symbol of springtime, growth, and renewal.

This year, why not use Easter as an opportunity to introduce new **active, engaging, and developmental games** with

Sammy Skills and the other Startwell characters. Visit the link above for more fun ideas. Here's a few to get you started!

Sammy Skills Action Egg Hunt

Hide paper eggs. On the back of each egg, write a movement challenge such as:

- Sammy Skills says – 5 star jumps
- Sammy Skills says – Fly like a bird
- Sammy skills says – Stand on 1 leg
- Sammy skills says – Hop like a lamb

I'm Sammy Skills and I promote the importance of skills based play.



Startwell



Springtime Yoga with Sammy Skills

Try simple poses inspired by:

- Bunnies, chicks, flowers and seeds growing

Try Spring and Easter yoga with Cosmic Kids on YouTube:

[Spring & Easter Yoga For Kids 🧘 Yoga Club \(Week 30\) | Cosmic Kids](#)

(Starting 6 minutes in)

SCHOOL PLACES FOR CHILDREN GOING INTO RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER

Families that submitted a school application (by the deadline of 15th January 2026) will receive a **SCHOOL PLACE OFFER** on Thursday 16th April 2026.

To enable smooth transition processes to schools and sharing of information, please inform the office of the school offered to your child.

TELL US!

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE: SCREENTIME

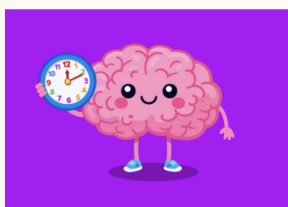
The government, through the Best Start in Life Strategy, have released new screentime guidance for children under 5.

Please visit the guidance summary and full document here:

[Baby and toddler screen time guidance - Best Start in Life](#)

The guidance shares information on the maximum screentime advised at different

age groups, the types of content that are recommended and not recommended, the affects of adults screen use and the affects of screentime on young children's development.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

This website shares very important information and tips on keeping children safe.

You can sign up to receive info, resources and safety articles from them.

[Child Accident Prevention Trust | A safer world for all our children](#)

SPRING AND EASTER SAFETY

Visit the link here for spring safety tips:

[Spring safety guide: Top tips for keeping children safe](#)

There are many tips within this webpage, but the MOST SIGNIFICANT RISK we share with our families is the risk of Mini Eggs or similar at this time of year.

Did you know Mini Eggs are the perfect size and shape to completely block a small child's airway and choke them? Did you know that their hard shell can make it difficult to dislodge with standard first aid techniques?

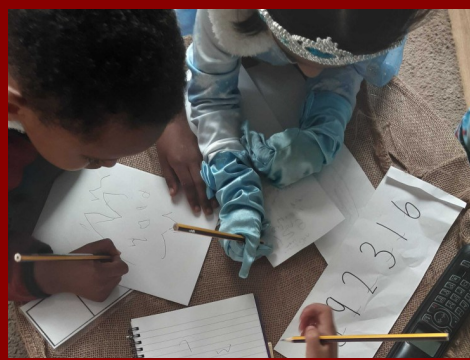
That's why they aren't recommended for small children. So, please stay safe and choose another treat for your little one this Easter. Larger, hollow eggs are much safer.



How much screen time should my child have?

Limit total screen time for young children, wherever possible.

- **Under 2 years:** Avoid screen time other than for shared activities with family that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- **2-5 years:** Try to keep it to 1 hour a day. Less if possible.



Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

