




Gracelands  
Nursery School

AUTUMN 2 - 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

### Dates for your diary

#### DECEMBER

- 20th - Christmas parties
- 20th - Break up for Christmas holiday
- WB 23rd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

#### JANUARY

- 6th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)
- 21st - SEND parent coffee AM & PM

#### FEBRUARY

- 7th - NSPCC Number Day and maths parent workshop
- 11th - Safer Internet Day
- 13th - Break up for the half term holiday
- 14th - STAFF TRAINING DAY
- WB 17th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)
- 24th - Back to nursery (spring 2)

#### MARCH

- 5th - PSS/ EP/ OT SEND training session for parents (external agencies delivering)
- 6th - World Book Day (book character dress)
- 21st - World Down Syndrome Day (wear odd socks to nursery)
- 26th - Ramadan / Eid family activity session

#### APRIL

- 1st - SEND parent coffee AM & PM
- 9th - Easter family activity session
- 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)

### Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for heading over to our Autumn 2 newsletter.

It has been a wonderful half term, and an especially enjoyable last couple of weeks, embracing the festive season.

We've been lucky enough to enjoy so many special experiences with the children: playing in the snow, decorating the trees, joining in a Christmas story-telling session, Christmas family activity session, festive cooking of biscuits, peppermint creams

and healthy pizzas, Christmas parties, plenty of singing and welcoming a very special visitor (Ho, Ho, Ho!).

SEND coffee morning - Our coffee morning was attended by many families across our cluster, they got to hear first hand about the partners we work with such as the Communication and Autism Team (CAT) and Speech and Language Therapist (SALT). Lots of questions were asked and many hints and tips shared which families found very helpful. Thank you to Gail for organising the session.

School applications - May I remind those of you with children going to school in September, to please submit your application online. Do ask us if you need any help—the deadline is 15th January but we advise not leaving it until the last week in case any problems occur with logins, etc. There is more information on the school admissions process here: <https://shorturl.at/gPOV2>

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas for those celebrating, and a prosperous and healthy new year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

*Sam*

**Executive Head Teacher:** Sam Richards

**Deputy Head Teacher:** Harshila Parmar

**SENCO:** Gail Goldberg

**Teacher:** Ifrah Rafiq

**Office Admin Assistant:** Farah Shah

**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

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

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Maintained Nursery School'



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## CURRICULUM FOCUS



During this half term, the children have been busy exploring the studio, inspired by the works of 'Wassily Kandinsky.' They found opportunities to look at and use different materials and layers to get their desired affect; they used large scale objects and explored circles of all sizes. The children were fascinated in developing their creations using large tubes, sponges, tubs, paint, clay, pencils and other cylindric objects they found.

We have been learning about the Startwell characters. The children have been introduced to 'Suzy Startwell' who is the Startwell role model character and helps children learn about keeping healthy. Children have been engaging in daily exercise and dance to get their bodies moving, just like '180 Katie.' The oral health workshops and discussion have supported the children in understanding the messages that 'Smiley Shen' shares. Through all of our cooking activities, lunch and snack time, the children have been learning about healthy snacks and portion sizes through 'Mickey me size' and '2 snacks Max'.

With all the different weather that we have had this term, the children have enjoyed exploring the changes in the environment during snowy, icy, wet and sunny days. There has been lots of interest from the children around how objects can freeze. This led to some experiments, led by the children, exploring what would

freeze and how to then retrieve hidden objects by finding different ways to make the ice melt.

We have seen a huge interest in music, and children have explored soul music in particular. They have been listening very carefully and tuning into the instrumentals, such as the trumpet, saxophone and trombone. This has provided an alternative style of music for children to move rhythmically to.



## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

### Attendance last year (2023-24)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	78%
Little nursery	74%
All	77%

### Attendance this term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	77%
Little nursery	74%
All	76%

It was a good first half term for attendance but we have seen a dip, and mostly due to the winter bug doing the rounds.

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.*

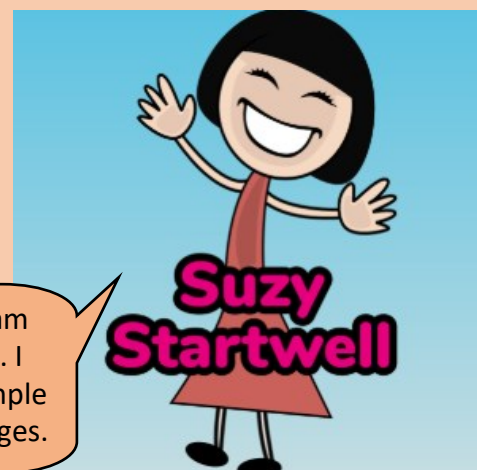
## SPRING 1

The spring term will begin with welcoming our new families joining us. The children will explore a variety of texts with the first being *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* in big nursery and *The Wheels on the Bus* in little nursery. Props and acting will bring the texts to life to further support key vocabulary and continue our drive of instilling passion for books and storytelling.

As part of our growth project and sustainable living commitment, we will be working with the children to begin the spring planting. This will include flowers (to promote visiting insects), and fruit and vegetables. We will also be keeping an eye on the progress of hardy vegetables that we planted at the end of last year.







### BE A ROLE MODEL FOR THE CHILDREN

Children learn from copying the behaviours of those they see around them. As a parent or practitioner, it is important that the behaviours children around them see and copy are positive.

Research suggests that parent's who role model physical activity as part of their own lifestyle are more effective at getting their children to engage in physical activity themselves (Bois, 2004).

I'm Suzy Startwell and I am the Startwell role model. I help to set a positive example for all the Startwell messages.

### As a role, model allow children to see adults:

- Eating fruit and vegetables, drinking water throughout the day
- Being involved in active play and physical sessions
- Participating in meal times
- Modelling movement skills
- Food shopping and preparing food
- Enjoying being active, having fun, & modelling movement skills

### As a role model, support children by:

- Encouraging them to try to eat a variety of foods
- Praise them when they try a new activity or food
- Talk to them about food and making healthy choices
- Involving children in food shopping, food prep & meal times
- Help them to find activities they enjoy



## SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS



Apply online for your child to start Reception class

For those of you whose child is 4 or turns 4 by August 31st 2025, your child is due to start Reception in September.

Every child requires an application for this move to school.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY HELP WITH LOGGING IN OR COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION.**

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

The deadline for completion of the application is:

**15th January 2025**

Applications submitted after 23:59pm on 15th January will be marked as a 'late application'. These applications will not be looked at until after offer day on 16th April 2025. Late applications are far less likely to receive one of their school preferences.

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES



The following website shares very important information and tips on keeping children safe: <https://capt.org.uk/>

The safety tip shared recently by the CAPT (Child Accident Prevention Trust) is around safe bath time.

### Safe baby bath time: Top tips

Whether you love or loathe bath time, it's important to keep safety in mind as sadly, many accidents happen in the bathroom.

The main risks are:

**DROWNING** - It only takes a few centimetres of water for babies and toddlers to drown. Their lungs can fill with water very quickly and they can drown in minutes. This all happens silently, with no noise or struggle to alert you that they're in trouble. Stay with your baby or young child all the time they're in the bath.

**BURNS** - A baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's, so bath water can cause devastating burns with life-changing scars. Always run cold water first and test the temperature with the back of your hand.

Visit <https://capt.org.uk/safe-baby-bath-time/> for more information on bath safety.





