

Gracelands Nursery School

AUTUMN 1 - 2026

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER
2nd - Back to nursery (Autumn 2)
13th - Children in Need (wear pyjamas & donations welcomed)
20th - United Nations World Children's Day - wear blue to promote 'My day, my rights'

DECEMBER
2nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY (nursery closed)
8th - Afternoon trip to the MAC—theatre production 'Tales from Acorn Wood'
10th - Winter creative parent and child workshop @drop off times
16th - Christmas party day for children (special visitor!)
17th - Christmas mini concert for parents - times TBC
18th - Break up for Christmas holiday
WB 21st - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

JANUARY
4th - Back to nursery (spring 1)
15th - Reception place application deadline

FEBRUARY
5th - NSPCC Number Day
9th - Safer Internet Day
12th—break up for half term holiday
15th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)
22nd - Back to nursery (spring 2)

MARCH
3rd - STAFF TRAINING DAY (nursery closed)
4th - World Book Day celebrations & dress up
25th - Break up for Easter holiday
26th - Bank holiday
WB 29th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

Executive Head Teacher: Sam Richards
Deputy Head Teacher: Harshila Parmar
SENCO: Gail Goldberg
Teacher: Sophie Cameron (mat leave), Nagina Kouser (mat cover)
Office Admin Assistant: Abdi Omer
Nursery Practitioners: Salma Mushtaq, Sughra Sattar, Sonia Parvaz, Rifat Shaheen, Zaryab Mahmood, Ammara Usman, Mevish Rehmat & Ayah Masood



Head Teacher's message

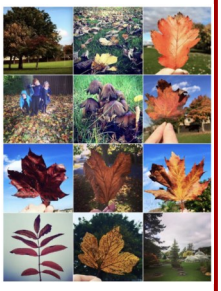
Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for reading our first newsletter of the year and a huge welcome to all our new families. We've all had a wonderful time seeing the children settle in and supporting them with this since September. This term, we've welcomed Nagina, who is covering a maternity leave this academic year, in the role of teacher. And I'm delighted to share that Sophie welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world in early October - huge congratulations to her & her family.

Home activity ideas: We share our fortnightly home activity ideas, which helps to embed and further develop what the children are doing and learning in nursery. We send you the link via text message fortnightly, but the documents can all be accessed on our website under the 'parents' section, then 'home learning ideas'. Please check your contact number with us if you aren't receiving these links.

Upcoming key dates: After half term, we will be taking part in Children in Need, World Children's Day and plenty of Christmas festivities. All our key dates (including training days and term dates) can be found here and on our website home page, at the bottom.

Walk & Wheel Wednesday: Newly launched… Please try to travel to school on foot / scooter / bike with your child every WEDNESDAY, or park a little further away and walk the last part of the journey, contributing to cleaner air. We'll be discussing how we all travelled to school on Weds AMs/PMs, linked to greener-living learning.



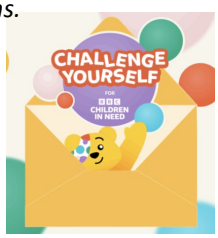
School applications: Action is required for children who will be 4 by 31st August 2026 and going to school in September 2026. (See pg3)

Weather: We want children to enjoy outside learning all year round. Please can we ask that parents provide warm and water-proof clothing for their child/ren.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you had some family time outdoors to enjoy all that autumn has to offer this half term. Sam

Children in Need - children can wear pyjamas to nursery on Friday 13th November. We'll be collecting donations.





World Children's Day... 'My day - my rights'. We'll be supporting children to talk about their lives, their hopes and their rights.

Children can wear blue on Friday 20th November to mark this important day (no donations).

unicef | for every child

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS
unicef
UNITED KINGDOM
GOLD
RIGHTS RESPECTING

NEW FAMILIES, DID YOU KNOW...

Contact Us

GRACELANDS NURSERY SCHOOL
Grace Road, Birmingham, B11 1ED
☎ 0121 772 3124
enquiry@jakeman.bham.sch.uk

Follow us on FACEBOOK

'Gracelands Local Authority Maintained Nursery School'

Follow us on INSTAGRAM

gracelandsnurseryschool

AUTUMN CURRICULUM FOCUS



The children are already forming warm relationships with their peers & key adults. They are becoming familiar with routines and growing in confidence as they learn what to expect each day. It's been lovely to see how much they enjoy being part of their group&joining in with group activities.

Core book: This half term, one of our core stories has been *The Little Red Hen*. Listening to and retelling the story - and through group discussion - children have developed understanding of cooperation and friendship, exploring what makes a good friend, helping others, working together, sharing, and showing kindness to one another.

The book also provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about the bread-making process. Children discovered where flour comes from and explored the various stages involved in making bread. Children made their own playdough by carefully mixing flour with other ingredients. They observed how its consistency changed as the ingredients were combined. Kneading the dough was a particular favourite!

In Little Nursery, the children have been enjoying the story Maisy Goes to Nursery. This reassuring book has supported the children as they settle into nursery, helping them to understand the daily routines and what to expect throughout the day. The children have explored themes of friendship, independence, and new experiences, helping them to feel confident, secure and happy in their environment.

Celebrations: Learning about Diwali provided an exciting opportunity to explore how families celebrate the Festival of Light. Children created bright Rangoli-inspired patterns and made diva lamps using clay.

Artist focus: Inspired by the work of Emily Kame Kngwarreye, children explored colour, pattern, and mark-making. Dots, lines, and brushstrokes were used to explore and create imaginative artwork. This learning was linked to Black History Month, providing opportunities to celebrate diversity and talk about the importance of recognising different cultures, histories, and experiences.

Outdoor learning: The children have been noticing the early signs of autumn. During garden walks, they observed falling leaves and explored the changing colours, shapes, and patterns found in nature. They also investigated pumpkins, looking closely at their markings, size and shapes, while comparing colour, weight and quantity, developing observational skills and mathematical understanding.

The mud kitchen has continued to be very busy where children have been preparing a variety of fruits and veg, exploring different textures, smells, and colours. Working collaboratively, children created their own recipes and engaged in meaningful conversations as they mixed, chopped, and experimented together.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance last year (2025-26)	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	85.2%
Little nursery	80%
All	**84%**
Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	84.6%
Little nursery	81.5%
All	**83.6%**

It has been a good start to the year for attendance at Gracelands Nursery School. Although we are hopeful that we can work together and support increasing attendance over the coming months. Prioritising nursery attendance and consistency in routine for young children benefits them in many ways. Additionally for our 3&4 year olds, positive habits from the start will really help in readiness for primary school. We want every child to access as much of their education entitlement as possible.

Let's keep it up and see if we can reach our target of 90% :-)

Please do take the time to read our attendance policy and support approach, which can be found here:
https://tinyurl.com/4jrnpwxr

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.

This is also available to view in a clear table through the rolling banner along the bottom of our website home page, for quick access should you need to check it at any point this school year. The direct link is:
Jakeman Nursery School - Is your child too ill for school today? NHS guidance here

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child links =
Article 3: best interests of the child **Article 28**: right to an education

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.

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/
There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK.

Coughs, colds or sore throat - It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough, cold or sore throat. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Conjunctivitis - You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Ringworm - If your child has ringworm, see a pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case, see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea - Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

High temperature - If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Ear infection - If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

STARTWELL

For those of you who are new to Gracelands especially, let us introduce you to Startwell.

What is Startwell all about? Well, the early years of life is a vital time to set healthy foundations to prevent obesity later on in life. Our lifestyles are significantly influenced by early life experiences. Healthy lifestyle intervention at a young age can influence food choices, physical activity levels and leisure activity choices and these are likely to continue into adulthood. Startwell is an NHS funded initiative.

The Startwell characters are ➔



Sugar Awareness Week: 17th—23rd November

Eating too much sugar can cause us to gain weight, has a detrimental effect on our teeth and can contribute to tooth decay. 2 snacks Max promotes having 2 healthy snacks per day. Smiley Shen helps promote keeping our teeth healthy by reducing intake of sugary foods and drinks.

Did you know, the recommendation for children, their health and their little teeth, is just 1 sugary treat per week?

World Nursery Rhyme week also takes place in November (9th-13th). Active nursery rhymes with actions encourage movement! Check out Startwell's *Character Karaoke* here: Startwell Character Songs - Startwell_2020

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice: https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/about-startwell/

THE WAITING ROOM

TWR
THE WAITING ROOM
Birmingham and Solihull Health & Wellbeing services at your finger tips

https://the-waitingroom.org/

This website is a go-to for any well-being services families may need. These are just a few of the categories:



There are helpful websites, helpline numbers and social media links for everything you could possibly need as a family.

We are always here to help in any way we can as a nursery school, but if you prefer to find support for your family yourself, this website is one to remember.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

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

With Bonfire Night and Diwali approaching, this is one of the most exciting times of the year for children. But it can also bring additional safety challenges. So, to help keep children safe this season, the Child Accident Prevention Trust have got some key safety tips and resources. Did you know sparklers can burn 16 times hotter than a kettle? Or how easy it is to buy powerful rockets unsuited to family back gardens?

child accident prevention trust

The CAPT fireworks advice hub covers all the safety essentials. **https://capt.org.uk/firework-safety/**

SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS

Birmingham City Council

Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2027

For those of you whose child turned 3 on or before August 31st 2026, your child is due to start Reception in September. Every child requires an application for their move to school and a place to be offered by the Local Authority.

Please let us know if you need any help with signing up, signing in, or completing the online application.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

You can visit your preferred school's website or call them to find out when you can look around. The deadline for completing the application is: **15th Jan 2027**

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

















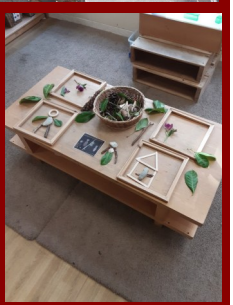
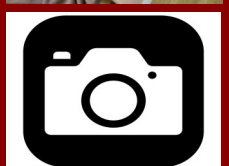


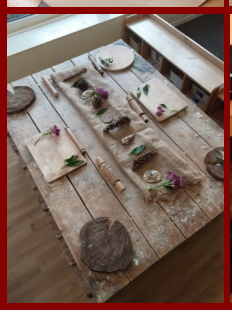









If you don't yet follow us on **INSTAGRAM**, please do! The team enjoy posting photos and videos to share what we get up to each week!