



Gracelands
Nursery School

SUMMER 2 - 2024

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

- 18th - Last day of provision for all children
- 19th - Graduation event for school leavers at Paradise Banqueting Hall
- 22nd - STAFF TRAINING DAY

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd & 3rd - STAFF TRAINING DAYS x2
- 4th & 5th - Home visits for new starters
- 6th - Stay and Play for returning children
- 9th - Usual nursery sessions start (Autumn 1)
- 20th - Weekly Friday stay & play mornings resume

OCTOBER

- 2nd - Induction parent meeting (new parents)
- 16th - Oral health parent & children workshop
- 24th - Break up for the half term holiday
- 25th - STAFF TRAINING DAY
- WB 28th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

- 4th - Back to nursery (Autumn 2)
- 20th - United Nations World Children's Day - 11am and 2:50pm children's performance
- 29th - 'Buy nothing' day

DECEMBER

- 11th - Christmas Creative Family Fun session
- 20th - Christmas parties
- 20th - Break up for Christmas holiday
- WB 23rd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

JANUARY

- 6th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)

FEBRUARY

- 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

APRIL

- 11th - Break up for the Easter holiday
- WB 14th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)
- 28th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)



Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well that brings another academic year to a close! I am going into the summer holiday (very soon) absolutely full of gratitude. I feel grateful for the wonderful children you have entrusted into our care this year. And I feel grateful for the truly committed and dedicated staff that make up the Gracelands team. Gracelands is a place that sows the seeds for lifelong learning and it is our whole staff team that make this a reality. ❤️

Key achievements and highlights of the year

- We are very pleased to have received our report for the GOLD Rights Respecting School Award reaccreditation—this means so much to us because it means our children really are able to hold on to their rights with confidence, now and as they grow older.
- We loved sharing our Eid celebration with our whole school community!
- We have engaged in some great training opportunities across our Federation of 9 nursery schools which has contributed to our staff keeping growing and developing.
- We have been able to greet little faces and watch children grow in confidence as the year has gone on. We are very lucky; it is a privilege and a joy.

What the children think...

- 'I'm going to miss the music!' 'I like riding the bikes the best because I am fast.'
- 'I'm going to miss Sahil because that's my best friend.' 'I like drawing because it is fun.'
- 'I like reading the books to the other children.' 'I'm going to miss my teacher.'

For those of you leaving as your child embarks on a new journey, thank you and please come back to see us! For those of you returning, thank you and see you very soon.

Sam and the Jakeman team x



2024-25 TEAM

Senior Leadership Team

Sam Richards (Executive Head Teacher & Lead DSL)
Harshila Parmar (Deputy Head & DSL)
Gail Goldberg (SENCO & DSL)

Admin Team

Farah Qurayshi (Office Administration)
Amna Bibi (Office Manager based @ Jakeman Nursery School—finance)

Little Nursery Team (N1)

Sonia Parvaz (Teaching Assistant and room lead)
Zaryab Mahmood (Nursery Officer)
Ammara Usman (Nursery Officer—am)

Big Nursery Team (N2)

Ifrah Rafiq (Teacher—N1 & N2 lead)
Salma Mushtaq (Teaching Assistant - am)
Sughra Sattar (Teaching Assistant)
Ammara Usman (Nursery Officer—pm)

Inclusion Team

Gail Goldberg (SENCO), Rifat Shaheen (SEND support staff)

Maternity Leave - Laiba Sajid

Contact Us

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Follow us on
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Maintained Nursery School'



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INSTAGRAM

gracelandsnurseryschool



CURRICULUM FOCUS

LEARNING

Well, what a busy term we have had at Gracelands! We were very lucky to have Karen from the Letterbox project come in and carryout workshops with our parents in the art of story-telling with our children. The children were thrilled to meet a radiographer and listen to her share the details of her profession. They were very interested in the x-rays and stories that she told! This led to a fascination in x-rays and then into looking after pets – with our very own nursery vets.

This term we have seen the completion of work in the garden area following the grant we received. We have created areas in the garden to enhance the variety of nature in the garden with new planters, raised beds and a range of plants. We also bought a summer house to keep out rainsuits and wellies in ready for the children to go out in all weathers. The summer house will also be used for outdoor story sessions in small groups and it also makes a fabulous place to watch the wild life from. The nature park project has engaged all the children with bug hotels to minibeast hunts, planting to pollination, they have had many fascinating discussions. Most recently, the children have watched and nurtured caterpillars to transform into beautiful butterflies. They then set them free to re-populate the area.

Making fruit salads, baking cakes, planting and growing, Eid celebrations and the most wonderful mark making, the children have had many fabulous learning experiences this term. They have all blossomed in their own unique ways.

Autumn 2024 will soon be upon us. During this term the children will be settling into/back into nursery. They will be looking at a variety of celebrations such as Harvest, Diwali and Black History Month. We will be going on several visits to our local places of worship across the course of the year. The children will also be introduced to a different artist and genre of music across each half term – starting with the artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye and delving into classical music.

To all the children who are leaving us, the Gracelands family wish all the very best in your new adventures and thank you for letting us be apart of your nursery journey.

Harshila

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance % this half term (summer 2)

Big nursery	73.1%
Little nursery	75.3%
All	74%

Attendance % this year

Big nursery	77.2%
Little nursery	74.3%
All	76.5%

Our aspiration continues to be to reach 90% attendance.

There are some useful tips for parents at the following link, presented in written form and in video form.

Top Tips for Improving School Attendance



[Improving School Attendance | SSS Learning](#)

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 nursery or leave us a message with the reason.

BOOK DONATION THANK YOU!

We'd like to express our huge thank you to the lovely family who have donated a selection of absolutely beautiful books for our children to enjoy next year. We are very grateful for your kind gesture.

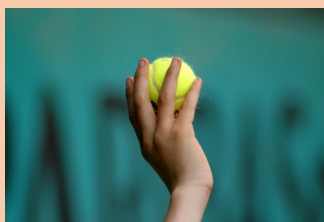


Startwell

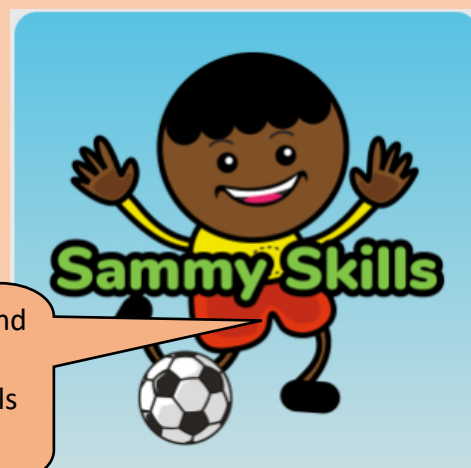
DEVELOPING BALL SKILLS WITH SAMMY SKILLS

Sammy Skills promotes the importance of Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS). Fundamental Movement Skills cover locomotor skills, stability skills and manipulative skills, and research shows the FMS's need to be planned for and practiced to ensure that all children are provided with the opportunities to develop their all-over physical literacy. The use of balls is a great way of developing manipulative skills. Both hand-eye co-ordination and foot-eye co-ordination are essential elements of developing ball skills. You might like to encourage your child to watch you blowing bubbles and get them to track them, as well as waving scarves above them. You could then start to roll a large ball to them and encourage them to roll it back.... Then try throwing and catching a ball together – start with larger balls or even balloons to slow the movement down. Why not move onto smaller balls and try to aim at a target. Start with a large target and gradually start to make the target smaller and further away. Introducing bats with children aged over 2 and using them with balloons is a great way to develop their co-ordination and control.

Click the link to the right to view the Startwell Summer 6 week CHALLENGE!
Also on the final 2 pages on this newsletter.



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



<https://startwell-birmingham.co.uk/6-week-summer-challenge-2/>



Activity for home: Children can practice batting using paper plates with a lolly-pop stick tapped to it, and a blown up balloon.

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 fork.
- 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.
- Share a book every day, talk about the pictures, what is going to happen next?. This supports children's listening and attention skills and early vocabulary. Join a library where you can access hundreds of books for FREE.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

Top tips for safety this summer:
Prevention of scalds and burns
<https://capt.org.uk/burns-scalds/>

Almost half of all serious burns are to children under two and 70% are to children under five.

It comes as a surprise just how easily a young child can badly burn themselves. But because their skin is thinner and more delicate than an adult's, a baby or toddler is at greater risk of serious burns.

Most young children are burnt at home, when they take parents and carers by surprise, for example by reaching for a hot drink or grabbing hair straighteners.

In fact, a cup of tea could be the most dangerous thing in your lounge. A hot drink can scald a baby even 15 minutes after it's been made.

Follow the link above to read how to stop these accidents and what to do in an emergency.



child accident
prevention trust





Summer Olympic Challenge

...are you ready for the Startwell Summer Olympic Challenge?

Physical Challenges

Food Challenges

1. Mini Olympics



2. Break Dancing

3. Get on your bike!



4. Dance around the world

5. Move like an Olympian



6. How fast can you go?

Week

1

Week

2

Week

3

Week

4

Week

5

Week

6

1. Fruit & Veg Olympic Rings



Note: remember to cut F&V into appropriate sizes in long batters



2. Role Play Café

3. Colour Matching



4. Foods around the world

5. Food Hunt



6. Snacks fit for a champion

Physical Challenge

Startwell
being active, eating well, achieving more

Food Challenge

MINI OLYMPICS

The Olympics are underway and we want you to get things started by creating your own Mini Olympics by creating an obstacle course with Sammy Skills! Have fun for running, jumping and throwing.



Focussed Skill: Locomotor, Stability & Manipulative Skills

BREAK DANCING

Break Dancing is a new sport in the Paris 2024 Olympics – so why not use this opportunity to introduce this style of dance to the children and get them to create different dance moves.

Focussed Skill: Self Awareness & Spatial Awareness



GET ON YOUR WHEELS

Cycling and now Skateboarding is in the Olympics – so use this opportunity to get out on the bikes and scooters to develop manipulative and stability skills.

Focussed Skill: Manipulative and Stability Skills.



DANCE THE WORLD

Find music from different countries competing in the Olympics and get the children to dance along to them – remember to include fast pace music to get the heart going BOOM BOOM BOOM like 180 Katie



Focus: Incorporating high intensity activity into daily routine

MOVE LIKE AN OLYMPIAN

Olympians are super active – so can you move more and sit less this week. We want you to walk as much as possible this week – use the car less and use the buggy less to get those belly buttons on the move like Active Azra.



Focus: Move More and Sit Less

COULD YOU BE THE FASTEST RUNNER ONE DAY?

We want you to see how fast you can run to get the hearts going BOOM BOOM BOOM like 180 Katie – set up races and move as quickly as you can

Focus: Developing fast twitch muscle fibres



WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

WEEK 5

WEEK 6

5 A DAY OLYMPIC RINGS

See if you can create the Olympics rings using 5 different types of fruit and veg. Talk about the different colour fruit and vegetable!

Focussed Skill: Recognising different fruit and vegetables



ROLE PLAY CAFE



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

Focussed Skill: Recognising ingredients

COLOUR MATCHING

Hide some different coloured fruit and vegetables around the room or garden. This could be real food, pretend food or pictures of food. Can the children find the food and colour match it to the colours of the Olympic rings.

Focussed Skill: Colour matching



FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



See if you can find a variety of different fruit and veg from different countries in the Olympics 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 & Cutting

FOOD HUNT

Lets get active for the Olympics! 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, have a discussion about which are the appropriate portion sizes for the children and adults.

Focussed Skill: Following rules or instructions



SNACKS FIT FOR A CHAMPION



Get the children to make their snack which is 'fit for a champion'. Olympians need healthy snacks as well. Base your snacks on fruit and vegetables

Focussed Skill: Chopping, cutting and peeling