




Gracelands  
Nursery School

AUTUMN 1 - 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

### Dates for your diary

#### OCTOBER

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)

15th - Children in Need (wear pyjamas)

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

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 coffee morning with the SENCO

9th - Easter family activity session

**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

### Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for reading our first newsletter of the year. We hope 2024-25 school year brings us all joy and happiness. We've certainly felt that joy and happiness already with a visit from Ofsted inspectors last week. It is always a pleasure to really absorb the wonders of our nursery school and show visitors the real life action of what makes our nursery school so special.

I'd like to thank the staff for always showing commitment to

their very important job and for their unwavering dedication to the children and families of Gracelands; we are lucky to have each and every one of them. And of course, to our wonderful children! What an absolute joy they are! They did us so proud. We will share more with you when we receive the final report.

**Home activity ideas:** We have recently had a problem with our server and this means new parent mobile numbers hadn't synced to our text messaging service. This has now been resolved so we will be back to texting out the link to our fortnightly home activity ideas. We support parent carers by sharing the song, Makaton sign and UNICEF Right we will be learning in nursery, with some ideas of things you could do at home. This helps to embed and further develop what the children will be doing in nursery. These are also on our website under the 'parents' section.

**Coming up:** 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 (event days, parent workshops and activity sessions, term dates) are on the home page of the website, right at the bottom.

Finally, to those celebrating Diwali on the 1st November, we wish you a Diwali that brings happiness, prosperity and joy to all your family. *Sam*

## NEW PARENTS AND FAMILIES, DID YOU KNOW ...

### We are a Gold Award Rights Respecting School?

There was information shared in the induction workshop but if you were unable to attend or would like to find out more, please ask! :-)

## 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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'Gracelands Local Authority  
Maintained Nursery School'

## AUTUMN CURRICULUM FOCUS



Our curriculum focus this half term has been centred around the children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), ensuring that all children have a smooth transition. Building on secure relationships with adults and peers and embedding routines, ensures the children feel secure in their environment and are able to access the full curriculum.

We have been exploring Australian born artist Emily Kngwarreye, and her style of Aboriginal art; inspiring children to make marks in a variety of ways, using a variety of materials. The children have explored using smaller circular patterns, creating colours through paint mixing and making their own paint using berries and natural materials.

We have introduced children to the genre of classical music. This has provoked many conversations on how music makes them feel and what types of instruments were being used. Children also explored how their bodies can move to classical music. The children made connections to how emotions can be represented through music or colour.

We have explored pumpkins differently in both rooms. N1 have been exploring through touch and observation. N1 discussed smell, weight, size and how the pumpkins feel. N2 developed this further by investigating the flesh, seeds, texture and practicing hand-eye co-ordination as the pumpkins were carved, sliced and hammered into.

Next half term is very busy with:

-Diwali celebrations, a library and Christmas market visit for N2, parent meetings, coffee mornings and more. The artist we will focus on is Wassily Kandinsky, who uses circles, colour and shape creatively to convey emotions. The musical genre of 'soul' will be explored next; identifying rhythm, vocals and wind instruments.

Please support your child with developing their love for books and stories with our weekly home reading library. You can talk together about the book and what is happening, remembering to also notice the detail in the pictures.



## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

### Attendance last year (2023-24)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	78%
Little nursery	74%
<b>All</b>	<b>77%</b>

### Attendance this half term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	81%
Little nursery	81%
<b>All</b>	<b>81%</b>

It's been a good start to the year for attendance.

We have updated our attendance policy and support approach, this can be found here:

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

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

Our aspiration is to get to 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 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.*

## 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.

*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.*

The Startwell characters, that you will see over the course of the year are →

Sugar Awareness Week: 11th—17th 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?



We will be focusing on oral health and sugar awareness after half term - it is always most powerful if nursery and home approach the same themes simultaneously to help enhance children's understanding.

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

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

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 Halloween, Diwali and Bonfire Night all quickly 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? Our fireworks advice hub covers all the safety essentials.



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<https://capt.org.uk/firework-safety/>

## SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS



Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2025

For those of you whose child turned 3 on or before August 31st 2024, 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)

Remember, you can visit your preferred school's website or call them to find out when you can go and look at the school if you'd like to. The deadline for completion of the application is:

**15th January 2025**



