



Gracelands
Nursery School

SUMMER 1 - 2026

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

JUNE

- 1st—Back to nursery
- 1st - Occupational Therapy Workshop: Outside play—supporting your child’s motor and sensory development 12:30
- 5th - Eid community party at Gracelands
- 9th - Community Autism Team (CAT) transition parent 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
- 6th - SEND meeting for parents with Gail (8:45 and 12:30)
- 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
- 4th (Fri) - ‘Stay and Play’ AM & PM for all returning families

OCTOBER

- 23rd - Break up for half term
- 26th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

- 2nd - Back to nursery

DECEMBER

- 18th - Break up for Christmas holidays

Head Teacher’s message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies that our summer 1 newsletter didn’t make its way to you before we broke up!

Welcome back to nursery for the last half term of this year. I hope you all had a wonderful week in the sunshine, and to all those who celebrated in the week, I hope you had a brilliant Eid. We hope to see you all on Friday at our community Eid party at Gracelands from 10am.



Term dates: Please check out the term dates to the left for those of you returning to us in September. Dates are regularly updated on our website calendar too:

[Gracelands Nursery School - Calendar](#)

Free School Meals and Hot Meals Consultation

We have low numbers of children eligible for Free School Meals due to most of our children taking up morning only or afternoon only places. If your child is entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), they would be eligible for 2 free school meals per week if they attended 2.5 days, instead of 5x half days. If your child is returning in September, and this is something you would like to ask about, please speak to Harshila. We will then consult with parents early in the autumn term (FSM eligible and full day parents) to see if hot meals would be a preference, and if non-eligible full day parents would be interested in purchasing hot meals at lunchtimes.

Sun Safety

Please ensure you apply **suncream** before you bring your child to nursery (both morning and afternoon).

Children who stay for the full day will have another suncream application with the support of staff

after lunch. Please remember to send your child with a **sunhat** (named) and on the warmer days, please opt for **thin, loose clothing** with shoulders covered to protect from the sun. Having said that, it is also still worth bringing a **coat everyday** - we do try to prepare for all eventualities with this British weather!



Stay and Play

Just a little reminder that our weekly stay and play will be running every Friday up until the last one of the school year on Friday 10th July. All are welcome with babies and children up to 3 years old—tell your friends, family and neighbours!

Walk and wheel

We had great uptake from our ‘Walk and Wheel’ to nursery fortnight to promote walking/ scooting/biking/balance biking to nursery to avoid road congestion and get our little ones’ feet moving before nursery. The children talked lots about it and were excited to share their journey details. We are going to introduce Walk and Wheel Wednesdays next year, but in the meantime, please continue to walk to nursery as much as you are able to—do tell us all about it when you come in! :-)

Best wishes, *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

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

**Follow us on
 TWITTER**

 @GracelandsNurs1

**Follow us on
 FACEBOOK**

 'Gracelands Local Authority
 Maintained Nursery School'

**Follow us on
 INSTAGRAM**

 gracelandsnurseryschool

CURRICULUM FOCUS

LEARNING

What a vibrant and joyful half term it has been in Nursery. The children have immersed themselves in rich stories, creative exploration and meaningful experiences that have sparked curiosity, confidence and connection.

📖 Core Text Adventures: In Big Nursery, we began with Giraffes Can't Dance, exploring rhythm, rock 'n' roll dancing and learning about jungle animals, different terrains and tropical fruits. Our journey continued with Handa's Surprise; the children loved discovering Africa and comparing Handa's lifestyle to their own. We then moved into the peaceful world of Peace at Last, learning about environmental sounds, nocturnal animals, and the differences between day and night—beautifully linking to Mental Health Awareness Week.

In Little Nursery, we enjoyed a wonderful bear theme through stories such as Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and We're Going on a Bear Hunt. The children have been joining in with repetitive phrases, naming familiar objects and exploring character feelings with growing confidence.

🎉 Celebrations: We were delighted to welcome families to our Parent Writing Workshop—thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate early writing. For Mental Health Awareness Week, the children enjoyed mindfulness sessions, yoga & calm reflection.

📰 Picture News: Our Picture News themes have inspired thoughtful conversations. We explored the London Marathon, thinking about determination and healthy lifestyles; we learned about recycling, practising how to sort rubbish into the correct bins and taking part in litter picking outdoors. We also discovered a new town! This inspired the children to design and build their own towns using construction—complete with shops, hospitals, farm foods and more.

🌿 Exploring the Natural World: The spring sunshine has enhanced our garden's beauty. The children have been spotting minibeasts, caring for living things and helping our plants and vegetables grow. The mud kitchen has been a hive of creativity, with children foraging for natural ingredients to make imaginative recipes—ice cream sundaes of every flavour being a firm favourite!

🎨 Creative Learning: Inspired by artist Andy Goldsworthy, the children have used nature, clay and recyclable materials to create artwork both indoors and

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

2025-26 year to date	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	86%
Little nursery	81%
All	84.4%
Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	87%
Little nursery	88%
All	87.2%

Attendance has improved again this half term, especially in little nursery—well done! :-)

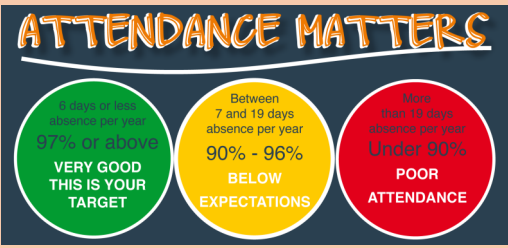
Please take the time to read our attendance policy and support approach here:
<https://tinyurl.com/4jrnpxr>

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

Our aspiration is to reach 90% attendance this year—we are getting really close!

It can be tricky to know when to keep your child off school when they

have signs of illness. Hopefully the NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' below will help.



RRSA links:
 UN 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, letting us know the reason. If the phone is engaged, please leave a message.

outdoors, thinking about placement and the natural landscape. We've also loved dancing with streamers to reggae music, celebrating movement & the joyful sense of togetherness music brings.

♻️ Recycling Projects: Linked to our mission to care for the planet, the children have created flowers, photo frames, dinosaurs and more using a range of recycled materials—showing fantastic imagination and problem-solving.

🧘 Outdoor Studio: With support from our resident artist, Sally, the outdoor studio has been a space of inspiration. Children have strengthened their shoulder and back muscles through vertical painting and created beautiful clay mosaics using natural materials.

🍷 Cooking and Food Exploration: In Big Nursery, the children made fruit salad using tropical fruits such as guava, pineapple, passion fruit and mango, and enjoyed making and tasting jerk rice linked to our African theme. We explored how food fuels our bodies and supports a healthy lifestyle. In Little Nursery, sensory food play has helped children develop expressive language & confidence exploring textures.

🔢 Maths Learning: In Little Nursery, we explored the number 3, inspired by Goldilocks, matching numerals to quantities. Obstacle courses helped us practise directional language. In Big Nursery, we developed our understanding of 2D and 3D shapes, using mathematical vocabulary to describe properties and compose/decompose shapes. We continued to build fluency with numbers to 5.

🔤 Literacy and Phonics: In Big Nursery, children have been developing their knowledge of initial sounds and beginning to oral blend. In Little Nursery, we explored rhythm and rhyme, dancing to the beat and singing familiar nursery rhymes with growing confidence.

🎵 Singing and Rights: Our children have amazed us with their singing of the Rights Respecting Song, showing increasing confidence when talking about their rights and the rights of others. It's been a half term full of discovery, creativity & joy! We look forward to more exciting learning ahead in the last part of the summer term.

50 YEARS OF NATIONAL SMILE MONTH

This year marks a major milestone for National Smile Month 2026, the UK's largest and longest-running campaign dedicated to promoting good oral health. Organised by the Oral Health Foundation, the campaign is now celebrating its 50th year of championing the importance of healthy smiles and positive oral health habits. Running from **13th May to 13th June 2026**, this year's campaign focuses on raising awareness of the benefits of good oral health. Good oral health is essential, not only for maintaining healthy teeth and gums, but also for supporting confidence, communication, eating, and overall health. Preventing dental disease through regular brushing, healthier diets, and routine dental visits remains one of the most effective ways to improve long-term health outcomes.

Remember 3 key messages for better Oral Health:

- Brush teeth for two minutes twice a day with a fluoridated toothpaste (before bed at night & one other time during day)
- Reduce intake and frequency of sugary foods and drinks.
- Visit a dentist regularly for check ups.

Is your child registered with a dentist?

Children should start visiting the dentist once their first milk teeth appear, or at 12 months old. The NHS website has more tips and guidance for parents:

[Children's teeth - NHS](#)

If your child is not yet registered with a dentist, you can find your closest NHS dental practice here: [Find a dentist - NHS](#)

Smiley Shen



I'm Smiley Shen and I promote keeping your teeth clean and healthy!



Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

[Welcome to Startwell Birmingham - Startwell 2020](#)

Startwell

SAFER SLEEP

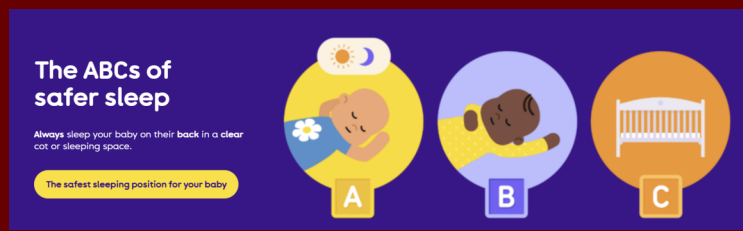
There is new guidance for Early Years settings to follow around safer sleep for babies and young children.

Here we are sharing some guidance for families too, with particular emphasis on reducing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. This link is a video ('Key points for families: Safer Sleep) of guidance from the National Child Mortality Database:

[Reducing the risk of child death: Key messages for parents](#)

This link is The Lullaby Trust Safer Sleep guidance page.

[Safer sleep overview | The Lullaby Trust](#)



CHILD SAFETY WEEK

The theme for this year's Child Safety Week is 'MAKING PREVENTION POSSIBLE'.

Visit [Free educational resources | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) to download your child safety week info pack.

We'll continue to be learning lots about keeping safe and our right to be safe.



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](#)





Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

