



Gracelands  
Nursery School

SUMMER 1 - 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

### Dates for your diary



#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### MAY

24th - Break up for the half term holiday

WB 27th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

#### JUNE

3rd - Back to nursery (Summer 2)

3rd - 9th - CAPT: Child Safety Week 2024

10th & 11th - Parent consultations

19th - Eid party at Paradise Banqueting Hall  
(10:11:30 & 13:00-14:30)

21st - Nursery and family trip to Twycross Zoo

25th June - SEND parent information work-  
shop (08:30 & 12:30)

27th - Story telling parent workshop (external)

#### JULY

10th - Sports Day/Soccer Aid collection (08:45-  
09:45 & 12:45-13:30)

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)

#### OCTOBER

24th - Break up for the half term holiday

25th - STAFF TRAINING DAY

WB 28th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

**Executive Head Teacher:** Sam Richards

**Deputy Head Teacher:** Harshila Parmar

**SENCO:** Gail Goldberg

**Teacher:** Laiba Sajid (temp. Ifrah Rafiq)

**Office Admin Assistant:** Farah Shah

**Nursery Practitioners:** Salma Mushtaq,

Sughra Sattar, Rifat Shaheen,

Sonia Parvaz & Zaryab Mahmood



### Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our half-termly newsletter if you are new to Gracelands just this term. It has been a very busy term; we are bustling with children and all of our groups are full. The summer term is always jam-packed with events so please do jot down any dates (to the left).

#### Nursery photos

We welcomed Hardy's School Photography team in last week and we are certain they captured some lovely pictures of the children. They have informed us that the proofs will be with us shortly after we return from the 1 week school holiday. There will be instructions on how you can order prints, should you want to.

#### Storytelling workshop

Karen from the Letterpress Project visited this week to share some stories with the children in both rooms. The children loved having a new smiling face come to work with them! Karen is back at Gracelands on Thursday 27th June to deliver a session to parents on the joy of storytelling using a variety of books—including picture books/books without words.

The Letterpress Project's slogan is 'Books can change your world'... and we couldn't agree more. See the section on the next page about BookTrust research statistics.

#### Paradise Banqueting

Nasir at Paradise Banqueting has been hugely supportive in allowing us to use the banqueting hall to host various events recently. We'd like to thank the team for their generosity and commitment to supporting our local community. Our Eid parties on Wednesday 19th June (10:00-11:30 and 13:00-14:30) will be held here too, as well our Graduation event for school leavers on Friday 19th July (AM only).

#### Birmingham transition day for school leavers

Wednesday 3rd July is Birmingham transition day. On this day, most children who are attending school (Reception class) in September will attend their new school for the morning. Please let us know if you are unsure about this or need any help communicating with the school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Have a lovely week, whatever you have in store.

*Sam*



PARADISE  
BANQUETING



“  
Storytime is  
not for  
sitting  
quietly. It's  
for bringing  
stories to life  
in a whole  
new way

Anonymous

Reminder - you can find our fortnightly articles, where we link a particular rights respecting article (from UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child) to our learning for those 2 weeks. This can be also be discussed and embedded at home. <https://www.grclands.bham.sch.uk/page/detail/fortnightly-rhyme-makaton-sign-and-rights-respecting-article>

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

Follow us on  
TWITTER

@GracelandsNurs1



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'Gracelands Local Authority  
Maintained Nursery School'



Follow us on  
INSTAGRAM

gracelandsnurseryschool



## CURRICULUM FOCUS



### This half term:

This half term, the children have been engrossed in learning about minibeasts. Their fascination has led onto many mini beast hunts and checking the bug hotel for new visitors daily. Our recent core book, 'The Bad-Tempered Ladybird' has developed children's understanding around emotions and sharing, as well as generating further interest in minibeasts. Cooking has been another key interest for the children, looking at how different materials change when combined, and when heat or cold is added to them. The children have made sweet vermicelli, jelly and fruit kebabs. During each cooking activity, key skills have been explored, particularly developing mathematical concepts.

Colour and colour changing has been an interest across the nursery with the children exploring both wet and dry paint mixing and creating different shades. The children have explored making various colour shades with paint, clay and water, making lots of marks and developing their writing skills.

Outdoors has been a pivotal point in the children's learning, particularly with some warmer weather meaning children have enjoyed more extended periods of time learning outdoors. New equipment has enhanced the children's balancing, climbing and moving skills, and the children are using more and more positional and directional language as they move and climb.

Then latest hot-topic through our weekly Picture News is on the Under 12s all female football team (Queen's Rangers) winning their league has generated lots of conversation about equality in sports. We look forward to learning about and discussing more topical news next half term!

### Summer 2 focus:

Summer 2 will soon be upon us, and we look forward to continuing our interest in minibeasts and lifecycles with the delivery of caterpillars. One of our core books will be 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. This will help to build on children's knowledge of life cycles, healthy living and sustainability. We will be embarking on the journey of metamorphosing and looking at how animals evolve. We will also be getting our children ready transition from little room to the big room, or on to school. There will be lots of activities to help children to develop their independence skills and their understanding of what may change for them in September.

Harshila

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

### Attendance % this half term

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Big nursery    | 79%   |
| Little nursery | 75%   |
| All            | 77.7% |

### Attendance % this year to date

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Big nursery    | 77.3% |
| Little nursery | 73.3% |
| All            | 76.4% |

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.

## BOOKTRUST RESEARCH STATISTICS

*BookTrust research finds that families overwhelmingly see reading with their child as important - but need more support to make it happen.*

20% of families said they don't read to their children because of a lack of time, while 28% said they don't find it easy. Shared reading also supports bonding between children and their parents, carers or other family members; boosts parental positivity; and improves children's sleep.

★ **95%**

of parents and carers **see reading as important** for their child

🎂 **77%**

of families start sharing books with their child **before their first birthday**

👤 **28%**

of parents and carers **don't find reading with their child easy**

📖 **21%**

of parents and carers **don't feel confident choosing books** that their child will enjoy

🕒 **20%**

of parents and carers say they don't read with their child due to **a lack of time**





# Startwell

## LATEST STARTWELL BLOG: ICELOLLIES AND ORAL HEALTH (15.05.2024)

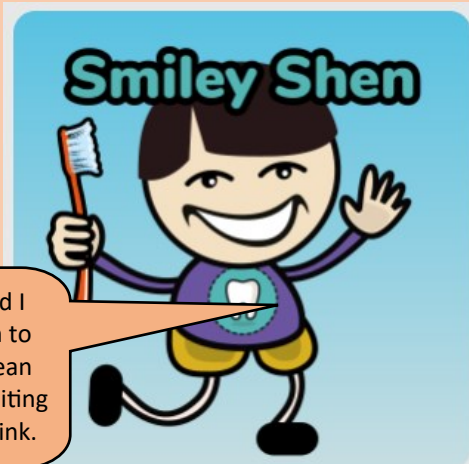
Did you know ice lollies are not recommended for young children? Even lower sugar versions still contain sugar and the sucking action when consuming ice lollies means the sugar will be in contact with the teeth for a long time. The longer sugar is washing over the teeth, the more harmful it is to teeth and the greater chance of tooth decay. In Birmingham **33.7%** of 5-year old children surveyed in 2022 had experience of enamel and/or dentinal decay. This is higher than the West Midlands region and England. It is important that you supervise tooth brushing up to 7 years of age.

### Smiley Shen says...

- ♦ Brush your teeth for two minutes, twice a day using a fluoride-containing toothpaste, from 6 months of age.
- ♦ Don't forget to visit the dentist regularly. Watch out for sugary foods and drinks and use age appropriate drinking vessels!



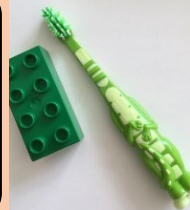
I'm Smiley Shen and I encourage children to keep their teeth clean and healthy, by limiting sugary food and drink.



Free flow beakers:



<https://startwell-birmingham.co.uk/bottle-to-cup/>



Activity for home:  
Children can practice brushing teeth with a toothbrush on Duplo.  
For extra fun, do this in the bath!

## SPARKBROOK CHILDREN'S ZONE—DROP IN HEALTH APPOINTMENTS FOR CHILDREN

If children are registered at one of the 8 GP surgeries in the Sparkbrook Children's Zone, parents or schools can phone and arrange to make an appointment for the child. Parents **DO NOT** have to go through their GP to access these appointments.

Paediatric GP and Nurse available for children and young people age 0 to 16.

The particular area of medical expertise for appointments available are:

- ♦ Constipation
- ♦ Eczema
- ♦ Growth concerns
- ♦ Asthma

### Other information:

- ⇒ Early Help also available for the whole family.
- ⇒ They will not diagnose autism but can support the medical and social needs of children who have suspected or diagnosed autism
- ⇒ They do not aim to follow up long term

Clinic is available for children age 0 to 16:  
**MONDAY** at Balsall Health Medical Centre  
**THURSDAYS** at Sparkbrook Medical Centre

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES— Child Safety Week

[HTTPS://CAPT.ORG.UK/CHILD-SAFETY-WEEK/](https://capt.org.uk/child-safety-week/)

**Get involved: Child Safety Week 2024 runs from Monday 3rd to Sunday 9th June.**

Child Safety Week is the Child Accident Prevention Trust's annual community education campaign, acting as a catalyst for thousands of safety conversations and activities UK-wide.

They help families build confidence and skills in managing the real risks to children's safety.

This supports the drive for all children to have the freedom to grow and learn, safe from serious harm.

### Safety. Sorted!

Families should feel confident that, with one small change, they can stop a serious accident. And be clear what they need to do to keep their children safe.

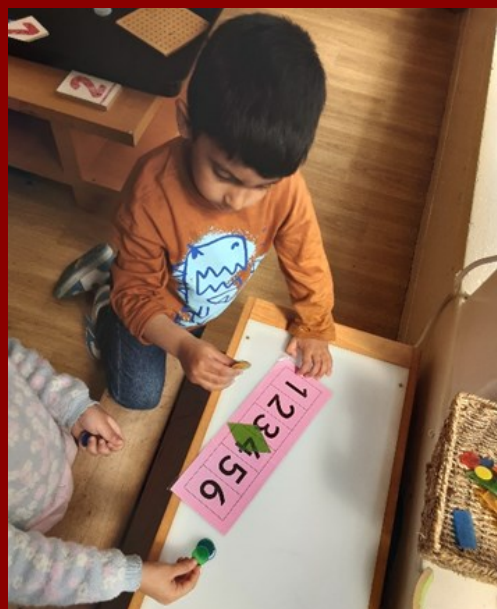
That's why, for Child Safety Week 2024, the theme is **Safety. Sorted!**

[HTTPS://CAPT.ORG.UK/CHILD-SAFETY-WEEK/](https://capt.org.uk/child-safety-week/)

Have a go at the Child Accident Prevention Trust's 'Child Safety Quiz' on the final page!









**Occupational Therapy**  
**NEW and FREE**  
**Transitions Through Education**  
**Online Webinars for Families**

**Getting School Ready**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
or  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
both 10.00 -11.00am

For tips and strategies to  
support children who are  
moving from an Early Years  
setting to Primary School

**Transitions Through Education**  
**family webinars ( Getting**  
**School Ready)**

(Online webinar for families)

**FREE!**

Wednesday, May 29

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transitions-through-education-family-webinars-getting-school-ready-tickets-883183635027>

Wednesday, June 19

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transitions-through-education-family-webinars-getting-school-ready-tickets-883191979987>



If you have any questions or problems with booking, please e-mail:  
[bchc.sendtherapy@nhs.net](mailto:bchc.sendtherapy@nhs.net)



**SEND Therapy Team**

# Sparkbrook Children's Zone

**Supporting children and families to live happy, healthy lives in Birmingham.**

This service is available to all patients under the age of 16 registered with one of these GPs: Balsall Heath Health Centre, Fernley Medical Centre, The Hill General Practice, Highgate Medical Centre, The Brook Surgery, St George's Surgery and Springfield Medical Practice.

Our specialist team can help with all children's health needs.

We also offer families support with parenting, wellbeing, food, money, housing advice, safety and abuse. Interpreting services are available.

## **Appointments are available:**

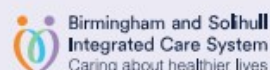
**Mondays at  
Balsall Heath Health Centre**  
43 Edward Rd, B12 9LP

**Thursdays at  
Sparkbrook Community and Health Centre**  
34 Grantham Road, B11 1LU



@SparkbrookCZ

## **Our partners**



**To book an appointment or find out more information, please ask your GP practice.**



# Child safety quiz

1. A baby's skin is:
  - a) twice as thin as an adult's
  - b) 5 times thinner than an adult's
  - c) 15 times thinner than an adult's
2. How long can a hot drink still scald a child after it's made?
  - a) 15 minutes after it's been made
  - b) 10 minutes after it's been made
  - c) 5 minutes after it's been made
3. How long can it take for a button battery to burn through a child's food pipe if they swallow one?
  - a) a week
  - b) a day
  - c) under two hours
4. How many seconds can it take for a toddler to be badly burned by water from a bath hot tap?
  - a) 5
  - b) 15
  - c) 50
5. Where are children most likely to be bitten by a dog:
  - a) at the park
  - b) at home
  - c) in the street
6. Hair straighteners can get as hot as:
  - a) an iron
  - b) a kettle of boiling water
  - c) a milky mug of coffee
7. At what age are children most likely to get run over:
  - a) 3 years old
  - b) 6 years old
  - c) 12 years old
8. Children under 5 are most likely to have an accident:
  - a) at nursery
  - b) on the road
  - c) at home
9. What foods are young children most likely to choke on?
  - a) Sausages
  - b) Marshmallows
  - c) Grapes
10. How long does it take for a toddler to lose consciousness if they get tangled in a blind cord?
  - a) 20 seconds
  - b) 2 minutes
  - c) 20 minutes



1. c - 15 times thinner than an adult's
2. a - 15 minutes after it's been made
3. c - under two hours
4. a - 5
5. b - at home
6. a - an iron
7. c - 12 years
8. c - at home
9. all of them
10. a - 20 seconds

Answers: