



Gracelands
Nursery School

AUTUMN 1 - 2025

NEWSLETTER

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning

Dates for your diary

OCTOBER

WB 27th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

3rd - Back to nursery (Autumn 2)

14th - Children in Need (wear pyjamas & donations welcomed)

20th - United Nations World Children's Day—wear blue to promote 'My day, my rights'

DECEMBER

1st - STAFF TRAINING DAY (nursery closed)

10th - Christmas Creative Family Fun session

17th - Christmas parties

19th - Break up for Christmas holiday

WB 22nd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

JANUARY

5th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)

15th - Reception place application deadline

FEBRUARY

6th - NSPCC Number Day and maths parent workshop (actual day = 7th)

10th - Safer Internet Day

13th - Break up for the half term holiday

WB 16th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

23rd - Back to nursery (spring 2)

MARCH

4th - World Book Day (book character dress) (actual day = 5th)

20th - World Down Syndrome Day (wear different socks to nursery)

25th - Ramadan / Eid family activity session

27th - Break up for Easter holiday

WB 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

APRIL

13th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)

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.

Home activity ideas: We share our fortnightly home activity ideas with parent carers; this includes us sharing the story, rhyme, Makaton sign and UNICEF Right we will be learning in nursery, with some ideas of age-appropriate activities you could try at home. This helps to embed and further develop

what the children will be doing in nursery. We send this link out in a text message, but they can also be accessed any time 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/play together activity sessions, term dates) are on the home page of the website, right at the bottom.

To those who celebrated Diwali this week, we wish you a Diwali that brings happiness, prosperity and joy to all your family. **Sam**

Children in Need - children can wear pyjamas to nursery on Friday 14th 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 Thursday 20th November to mark this important day (no donations).



unicef | for every child

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

NEW PARENTS AND FAMILIES, DID YOU KNOW ...
We are a Gold Award Rights Respecting School?
We prioritise teaching, promoting & protecting children's rights.

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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@GracelandsNurs1

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'Gracelands Local Authority
Maintained Nursery School'

AUTUMN CURRICULUM FOCUS



Children have settled in well and are building relationships with their peers and teachers. They are becoming familiar with routines and enjoy coming together as part of a family group. We have been reading lots of books to explore themes of friendship, feelings, and settling in, as well as celebrations such as Harvest and Diwali. Children have been learning how to recognise their feelings through the 'Colour Monster' story and learning breathing techniques to help regulate their emotions, especially so in Mental Health Awareness Week.

Children have been looking at the artwork of Emily Kame Kngwarreye; we have compared her work with ours and looked at the different ways we can make marks. We've enjoyed painting and using techniques like Emily, such as dots, lines and use of bright colours. Children also celebrated Diwali, made crafts and tasted new foods.

Children are aware of the vast autumn environmental changes. We used pumpkins in many ways, which sparked lots of mathematical language, questions, curiosity&wonder. We have enjoyed learning about our rights and learning the UNICEF rights song. Our right to privacy has been explored using the 'pantosaurus' song.

Our 2yr olds have been particularly interested in sensory play. This has been explored using real fruit and vegetables, sand, water, corn flour, mud and paint. Through these experiences, children are developing a wide range of early writing skills such as palmer grip, pincer grip, squeezing, pinching, cutting, rolling and much more. This helps strengthen muscles in their little, developing hands - which is needed for early writing. Little nursery's new sandpit has been very popular, the children are embracing climbing in and exploring the sand, like being at the beach!

After half term, we look forward to our big nursery trip on the train to the Christmas markets and Bham Library.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance last year (2024-25)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	83%
Little nursery	81%
All	82%

Attendance this half term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	89%
Little nursery	81%
All	87%

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

Please take the time to read our attendance policy and support approach, this can be found 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.

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: 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. 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/>



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 and Bonfire Night 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? The



CAPT fireworks advice hub covers all the safety essentials. <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 2025, 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

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 2026



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