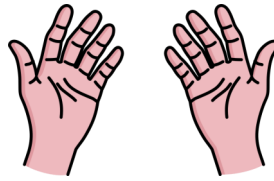


Our topic across the nursery this half-term is The Five Senses.



**Pre School Show and Tell**

This term we want to expand the children’s self-confidence when speaking to a group. To this end we are encouraging each child, on their book-bag day, to bring in the items in the weekly list below. During carpet time we will invite the children from a specific colour group to come to the front to show their item and explain about it to the class. There is absolutely no pressure from us, if a child does not want to come up that is fine. To support your child, it is helpful if parents have talked through the activity beforehand however, please let children do the activity for themselves. As the term develops we expand this activity by encouraging questions from the whole class to the speaker. Children usually love to do ‘show and tell’ and it is good practice for school. Please try and remember the item on your child’s book bag day – if your child forgets it please bring it in on a Friday instead.



**Phonics**

This last term in Pre-School we cement the children’s knowledge of the initial phonic sounds. Your child may bring home a little bag with letter cards to support this. These are ‘sounds’ your child already knows and provides an opportunity for them to ‘show off’ to you and build their self-confidence. Please hear them practice these letter sounds with new sounds added weekly. When the initial sounds are all known confidently children can start to physically put 2/3 sound cards together to form simple consonant-vowel-consonant words e.g ‘s’, ‘a’ and ‘t’ says ‘sat’. Model how to blend the sounds together by emphasising each sound slowly. Can your child hear the word you have said? Can they now blend a new word? We may send home games/word lists/sheets on an individual basis to support this. These should be fun activities, for a few minutes maximum at a time. Please ask the Pre-School staff if you have any questions about your child’s phonic development. To hear how we pronounce the sounds check out [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IwJx1NSineE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IwJx1NSineE)



No. of weeks	Weekly focus	Letters and Sounds Names	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home and bring in ‘to show’
1 17/4/23	Touch	y, x	Find objects of different textures to put in a drawstring bag. Guess what they are. Can you then find ways of describing them? Can you think up ways of sorting them?
2 24/4/23	Sight	s,a	Play I– Spy selecting an item by colour. Can you find something for each colour of the rainbow.  Bring in something to show that is transparent and another that is opaque.
3 1/5/23	King’s Coronation	t,i	Bake cupcakes and decorate with red, blue and white icing. Compare the ingredients by weight.. Bring us in one!
4 8/5/23	Smell	p,n	Smell a variety of odours with eyes shut. Guess what they are. Describe the smell, is it nice or nasty? Draw a picture list of smells you like and smells you don’t to show us.
5 15/5/23	Taste	c, k, e	Try a new food. Ask your child questions about it eg is it sweet? sour? Do they like the taste? On a paper plate or cardboard base collage your favourite meal to bring in and show.
6 22/5/23	Hearing	h, r	Go into the garden and close your eyes. What can you hear? Do the same in the living room. Can you write/draw a list of what you heard?

Ideas of easy ways to support your child's learning for the younger rooms:

Curriculum	Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
topic: senses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a song bag. Fill a bag with toys that correspond to different songs. e.g. sheep for baa baa. Sing the songs with your child. Can they join in / babble along?</li> <li>Create sensory bags. Fill them with different herbs or spices e.g. lavender.</li> <li>Make a treasure basket from household objects e.g. nail brush, sieve, pastry brush, garlic press etc. Feel them and talk about different textures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a kitchen orchestra out of pots, pans, wooden and metal spoons.</li> <li>Name and make different facial expressions in the mirror e.g. happy, sad, surprised, encourage your child to copy them.</li> <li>Create a texture fruit tray. Use apples, bananas, mango etc. Help your child to explore, use their touch, smell &amp; taste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play a guessing game. Put on a blindfold and handle different fruit, vegetables, toys etc. Guess which item you are feeling. Describe the item as you feel it.</li> <li>Help prepare dinner. Can children recognise the smell of different ingredients. Discuss texture and taste.</li> <li>Take turns being a doctor/optician/dentist/patient. Look in eyes, ears and mouth.</li> </ul>

**Free Childcare**

Children become eligible for 15 or 30 hours free childcare the term after their third birthday. We will send you a form to be completed just before your child is eligible.

The government attach a fixed amount per hour to reimburse nurseries for providing education and care to three and four year olds. Hertfordshire county council pass this on to us at a rate of £5.47 (from April 2023). This is considerably below our necessary hourly rate (currently £8.72) to operate in St Albans. We do not charge consumables or top up fees.

**15 Hours Free Childcare in term time**

Every child is entitled to 15 hours completely free the term after their 3rd birthday.

- 15 hours universal entitlement is applied term-time only 8am-1pm in Pre-School
- 15 hours universal entitlement is applied term-time only 1-6 pm in Fun focus

**30 Hours Free Childcare in term time**

Some children are entitled to a further 15 hours completely free the term after their 3rd birthday. Eligibility is determined by the HMRC eligibility checker and parents are required to reconfirm every 3 months. Further information can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

- 30 hours entitlement (to those eligible) is applied term-time only 8am-1pm in Pre-School plus one additional afternoon 1-6pm
- 30 hours entitlement (to those eligible) is applied term-time only 1-6 pm in Fun focus plus one additional morning in Kingfishers 8am-1pm



**Announcements in the Budget**

September 2023	2 year old ratio changes from 1:4 to 1:5. However, at Ladybirds we do not anticipate changing our ratios for safety and quality reasons.
April 2024	All 2 year olds receive 15 hours 'free' hours for 38 weeks a year
September 2024	All children from the age of 9 months receive 15 'free' hours for 38 weeks a year
September 2025	All children from the age of 9 months receive 30 'free' hours for 38 weeks a year

Exactly how this works, how it will be operated at Ladybirds Nursery and what the funding rates will be from the Government is yet to be decided. Further information will follow when we have it.

**School allocation**

Pre school families will have just found out the state primary school their child has been allocated for September. Please inform us as we have to send initial records to schools no later than 28th April. In the past families have found it useful to know which other Ladybird children are going to the same school. We assume you will share this information on your pre school WhatsApp group.



### Dates for the diary

27 <sup>th</sup> April	World daily mile
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank holiday (nursery closed)
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday (for King's Coronation (nursery closed))
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday (nursery closed)
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half term (Doves, Starlings and Holiday Club runs as normal)
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Pre School whole class photograph
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports day & family picnic
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Preschool Graduation

### Sleep

In line with our Sleep policy, (see attached), we are pleased to report that all children are now waking up naturally and are more settled for their busy afternoon. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.



### Tahida's wedding

We wanted to share the very happy news that Tahida Begum in Pre School is getting married on 6th May! Pre School will help her plan her special celebration.

### Hot Weather

Please make sure your child's draw string bag has suitable clothes for hot weather. We ask that all parents provide summer hats and sun cream. We will re-apply sun cream to your child in the middle of the day. Please make sure you apply sunscreen before they come to nursery.



When buying sandals remember that toes and heels must be covered as there is lots of gravel out in the park.

### Staffing

Welcome back to Gemma Harris who returns to Ladybirds this week on Tuesdays & Thursdays in the Starlings room. She previously worked here for 9 years and left last year. Olivia Oakman, who has worked in Starlings on ad hoc basis forms a job share with Gemma on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. A warm welcome to Tia Constable, an experienced practitioner who has just joined us. Tia is working full time to cover staff training and holidays.

### Pre school uniform

Existing Kingfisher children who transfer to the pre school room in September will require our Ladybirds yellow polo shirt and sweatshirt. A book bag is necessary but can be of any make. These can be purchased online and delivered to nursery. To guarantee delivery, all orders must be placed by 31st July 2023.

<https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/LadybirdsNurseryAL4>

### Library

Books are a fantastic resource that children love and are a great foundation for future learning.

Have you visited your local library? Libraries in Hertfordshire are running 'My First...' promotions where your child can receive a certificate for a variety of milestones. They will also receive their very own library card featuring the character Tala the Storyteller. Libraries host free, 30 minute baby rhyme time sessions. You may need to book ahead to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/libraries-and-archives.aspx>

### Visitors to nursery

We warmly welcome visitors into nursery who can talk to the children about their jobs and personal experiences. This academic year alone we have had a geologist, scientist, music teacher and engineer. If you or a member of your family have a skill or cultural experience to share we would love to hear from you. Our current topic is 'Senses' so would especially love to hear from any doctors, dentists, oral hygienists, opticians etc.



### Pre School class photo

Wednesday 7th June

The photographer will visit to take a class photograph of Pre School before they transfer to school. You will see a proof of the print to enable you to decide whether you would like to buy it or not. Please ensure children have the cleanest uniform on that day!



### **Teddy's Diary**

This term, Pre-school children will be welcoming the Nursery teddy into their own homes. Teddy will visit a child's home on a Monday and needs to return to nursery on the following Thursday. He will then go to a different child's house on that day and will return on the following Monday. It is vital that you bring teddy back to nursery on the correct day as the children get very excited to see him and disappointed if he is forgotten. Please write a few lines about teddy's adventure in your house and help your child draw a simple picture in the book provided. Please do not feel that teddy needs to do anything out of the ordinary! If at all possible please take a photo and stick it in the book. Please do not email photos for us to print out. Your child will show and talk about the diary to the class once back at nursery.



### **Song bag**

Kingfishers and fun focus regularly enjoy pulling items out of a bag and singing songs linked to our half termly theme ie 'senses'. So you can join in with your children please find attached leaflet with the words.



### **World Daily Mile Day**

27th April

We are taking part in the first ever World Daily Mile Day on Thursday 27th April 2023. The Daily Mile is a simple, yet effective initiative where children run, jog, wheel, or toddle for just 15 minutes a day.

We were part of the pilot that introduced the Daily Mile into nurseries, consequently, the pre school have embedded this in their practice. Usually on a Friday they go for a vigorous 'jog' and can talk about the effect this has on their bodies.

On World Daily Mile Day the whole nursery will endeavor to be really active for 15 minutes, over and above their normal activities in the park.

### **Parents when separated**

Conflicts between parents, whether together or separated, can have a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances. Not all conflict is damaging, but where this is frequent, intense and poorly resolved it can harm children's outcomes.

The quality of the inter-parental relationship, specifically how parents communicate and relate to each other, is increasingly recognised as a primary influence on effective parenting practices and children's future life chances, including attainment and employment.

As part of the offer to reduce parental conflict, trained practitioners can be accessed across Early Help to deliver Parenting When Separated.

This is a 6 week course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce. Highlighting practical steps parents can take to help their children cope and thrive, as well as coping successfully themselves.

This, other course and resources are available on [Relationship support for parents | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

### **Nursery Information Packs**

The staff have created a selection of advice packs in order to support parents through a variety of situations you may experience as a family. We currently have the following packs available for you to borrow:

Potty Training	Emotions	Moving House	Oral hygiene (new pack)
Bereavement	Fussy Eaters	New Baby	

### **Parent feedback**

We welcome any feedback about any aspect of Ladybirds Nursery from parents. Please talk to us or e-mail your responses to [admin@ladybirdsnursery.com](mailto:admin@ladybirdsnursery.com).

Compliments/Suggestions/Concerns: