

A warm welcome to the following children who joined us recently:

Babybirds: Leo, Aran, Austin, Norah, Oliver

Ladybirds: Ana, Mae, Isla, Otto, Alfie, Joseph, Mat'ko, Ellie, Lydia

Curriculum Planning:

The half-termly theme across the Nursery is 'Transport.

Activities to support the Pre school sessions:



No. of weeks	Weekly focus	Sounds	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home
05/09/22	Big trucks (dumpers, diggers)		
12/09/22	Boats	s, a	Test different bath toys to see if they float or sink.
19/09/22	Cars & Motorbikes	t, i	Look at car registration plates. Can you point to a number or a letter?
26/09/22	Trains	p, n	Make a human train with all the members of your family. How many carriages/people are there? Can your 'train' visit every room in your house?
03/10/22	Bus	c & k, e	Go on a bus. What can you see out of the window? Press the button to let the driver know when you want to get off.
10/10/22	Air	h, r	Make a paper aeroplane together and practise flying it in and outdoors.
17/10/22	Emergency Vehicles	m, d	Talk to your child about how and when to call 999 in an emergency.

How to help support younger children at home:

Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a cereal sensory tray for cars. Talk about the different textures and sounds they make as they push and roll the cars through the cereal. Dip different vehicles in paint and push them across paper. Name the colours and talk about the mark e.g. wavy, short, long and straight. Use masking tape to make a train track and road in the lounge. Can your child crawl along it like a train 'Choo, choo' or 'Brrm' like a car. Model the sounds for them to copy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a car out of a big cardboard box. Find something circular to use as a steering wheel. Climb in and 'drive' your car. Go on a bike or scooter ride and practise changing speed from very slow to super fast. Try and find different surfaces to ride on eg path, pavement, grass. Does this affect your speed? Drag a vehicle with chunky wheels through the mud. Does it make any tracks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst out on a walk look for a specific coloured vehicle. Can you count how many other cars have the same colour? Use recycling materials to make some boats. Put them in some water and see what happens. Do they float, sink, get soggy? Why? Make ramps to put your cars down. What works well? Are the cars fast or slow? What happens if you make the ramp steeper?



Library books

The pre-school children borrow a book from our library stock once a week (starting week of 12th September). It is imperative that your child brings their bag on the correct day each week. They return the book the following week and talk (simply) to a small group about it e.g. whether they liked it? Did it have interesting pictures? Who was their favourite character etc? This is supposed to be a fun activity and not formal homework.

Blue group (Tuesday) Miss Gee	Green group (Wednesday) Miss Hay	Yellow group (Thursday) Mrs Shortland & Miss Begum
Ellie	Lydia	Mat'ko
Rory	Xavier	Alice
Tilly	Martim	George
Anabelle	Teodora	Anna
Felix	Ariadne	Aarav
Isabelle	Cora	Lazaros
Jude	Alex	Isaac
Amelia	Shayan	Daya



In-service training for staff

Rach Bell from 'Learning through Landscapes' is leading our whole staff training session 6—8pm on Tuesday 6th September. She is going to utilise the resources we accessed through the 'Local schools Nature Grant' we were successful in obtaining last term. Our aims for the training are:

- To build a shared vision and values for play outdoors.
- To plan for developing fantastic outdoor spaces for play and learning.
- To support staff confidence, skills and knowledge.
- Experience first-hand fun, simple provocations and behaviours to make the most of children's play outdoors.
- To build teams and have fun.

Pre-School Parent's Meeting

Wednesday 14th September 7.45pm (drinks and nibbles available from 7.30pm)

We warmly invite parents of current pre-school children to attend this evening to find out more about what your child will be learning and to meet other parents. We will outline the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and expectations regarding social and emotional development and ultimately the transfer to school. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Staffing

Welcome to new staff members Dani Ritchie, Deanna English and Candy Ng.

Please see below our current room teams:

Doves: Abbie Speed continues in Doves as room leader. Deanna English joins the Doves team

Starlings: Liene Ducena remains room leader and works alongside Paris Nicholas and Dani Ritchie

Kingfishers: Michelle Gee (Manager) will continue as room leader and works alongside Charlotte Sinnott, Helen Page and Courtney Charles-Faulds.

Pre school: Sarah Gee remains in Pre-school as room leader and is working alongside Olivia Hay, Victoria Shortland (Mon and Tues) and Tahida Begum (Wed—Fri). Bernadette Lee and Julie O'Kelly continue to teach on alternate days.

Partnership with parents

To ensure your child makes the best possible progress we rely on working closely with families. There are many ways we do this at Ladybirds:

- Settling in - if your child is new or having difficulty settling into their new room we will provide a 'settling sheet'. This is a form of communication that goes between home and nursery until your child is settled. Existing Ladybirds children will have visited their new rooms on numerous occasions with and without their old keyworker before moving to their new room. The old and new keyworker met to exchange information to encourage a smooth transition.
- Blossom Educational (online platform) - This system allows us to communicate with you on a daily basis regarding your child's day at nursery. There is also a messaging app for you to share information with staff when needed. We post news, information and our half termly newsletters. We use Blossom to record your child's development and write consultation reports.
- Cultural experiences - please tell your key worker about any special customs/festivals your family celebrate so we can incorporate these into our planning
- Parent visits - we warmly welcome visits into nursery from people who can give children first hand experiences. In the past we have had a pharmacist, policeman, musicians, sari fitter and animal trainer to name a few. 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 'transport' so would especially love to hear from any pilots, bus drivers, mechanics etc
- Magic moments - We celebrate special events and milestones in your child's life with our 'Magic moments' display board. Please write a sentence on the proforma (see attachment with this newsletter) explaining the special "moment" for your child and (ideally) send it in with a photograph. We celebrate it by sharing it with their peers then displaying it. This information helps us build a fuller picture of your child; staff plan activities around children's interests.
- Remember we want to know what you think—at the end of every newsletter there is a prompt to let us know your views—although you do not have to wait for this!

Snack

Every session children are offered water or milk and a healthy snack. We offer a range of fruit and vegetables which the older children help cut up.



Absence

Please message on Blossom, ring or email nursery as soon as possible when you know your child will not be attending as planned. If your child is in receipt of government funding we have an obligation to check the reason for the absence.

Yoga

We have been asked to publicise Yoga sessions for adults at the Highfield Park Trust Visitors centre on Mondays 9.30am—10.30am. Please see attachment for further details.

Songs

Thank you to Helen Page who has compiled another song leaflet to accompany this term's topic of 'transport.' The songs are linked to items in the Kingfisher and Fun focus song bag. The leaflet is attached.

Sports Taster session 12th Sept 9.30am

Super Star Sports are running two sessions for the Pre school children focusing on ball skills and general fitness. The sessions are designed to promote fitness, activity and a healthy lifestyle whilst having plenty of fun.

Highfield Park Trust

As part of our 'transport' topic Highfield Park Trust have kindly agreed for the tractor to visit us on Wednesday 7th September.



Results of Parent Questionnaire 2022

Thank you to the 34 families who took the time to complete and return the annual questionnaire in July. The response rate was 45% (as opposed to 22% last year).

As you can see the scores below are consistently high across the board.

1	My child likes nursery.	94%
2	My child is developing appropriately.	92%
3	Me and my child and are welcomed at nursery.	94%
4	The nursery helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle.	93%
5	I am kept well informed about how my child is getting	86%
6	Staff expect my child to behave well and do his or her best.	90%
7	Staff treat my child fairly.	93%
8	The nursery is led and managed well.	93%
9	The nursery seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions, concerns or complaints.	83%
10	Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent.	91%
11	There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	94%
12	Arrangements for my child to settle in/transfer to the next room were good.	87%

The scores indicate a very high level of satisfaction with Ladybirds. You will remember Ofsted visited us in February 2022 and again rated us as 'Outstanding'. It is gratifying that families feel the same.

The statements below obtained the highest scores:

- 'There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable'
- 'My child likes nursery'
- 'Me and my child and are welcomed at nursery'

We are delighted that fundamentally children are happy at nursery and parents feel welcomed at the door.

We have used the results of this questionnaire to form part of our action plan for this academic year. One area we will specifically be looking at is how to further

- 'Seek the views of parents and take account of their suggestions, concerns or complaints'.

With this in mind, please see our September 2022 newsletter where we have a section listing the ways we work in partnership with parents. Please note, we have an open door policy where one of the senior staff is always available to support you.

Dates for the diary

14th September	7.30pm for 7.45pm start Pre-school parents meeting
W/C 10th October	'Lifestyle' Photos taken throughout the week
24th October– 28th October	Half Term. Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds only.
14th December	9.30am-10am Pre school play. Parents warmly invited.
15th December	Father Christmas visits & parties.
16th December	Term ends
19th December— 6th January	Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds only.
23rd December	Nursery Closes at 1pm
26th & 27th December	Nursery Closed
2nd January	Nursery Closed
9th January	Spring term begins

Miscellaneous

- Please clearly label all food that your child brings into nursery. It is much easier for us if all items needing refrigeration are placed in a named freezer type bag or plastic box.
- Name all jumpers, coats and shoes. Sweat-shirts that have a loop (of elastic or ribbon) attached are far easier for the older children to hang up on their pegs. This obviously aids their independence.
- Rucksacks and plastic bags are not permitted at nursery as they are too bulky/unsafe for the cloakroom area. Please use a drawstring bag. All children should have changes of clothes at nursery that are appropriate for the weather.



Individual photos

Week commencing 10th October

Emma Collins, the professional photographer will be in nursery across the week commencing 10th October. She spends considerable time with the children watching them play and interact and hence captures natural moments. You will receive full instructions on how to view your child's photos. There is no obligation to purchase any.



Car Park & Collection

Please ensure your child is collected promptly at the end of their session. The nursery and carpark closes at 6pm. The gate to the carpark is locked so you risk having your car locked in overnight if you do not vacate by 6pm. If you choose to visit the boules area after pick up you must still vacate the carpark by 6pm or risk being locked in.



Blossom

Please ensure you update the app regularly to ensure the best functionality. Many problems can be resolved by simply logging out and logging back in.



Parents 'Whatsapp' groups

Each room has a WhatsApp group run for and by parents. This is facilitated by us but have no part in it. If you are new to Ladybirds and would like to be added to your room group please let your key worker know and they will pass this on.

<u>Parent feedback</u>	We welcome any feedback about any aspect of Ladybirds Nursery from parents. Please feel free to e mail your responses to admin@ladybirdsnursery.com .
Compliments	
Suggestions	
Concerns	