

A warm welcome to the following children who are joining us shortly:

Babybirds: Amelia, Ocean, Lucie, Noah, Joshua, Milo, Alex

Ladybirds: James

Curriculum Planning:

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

Activities to support the Pre School sessions:



Week beg.	Weekly focus	Phonic sounds Letter formation	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home
22/2/21	5 current buns	g, o	Bake buns together. What ingredients do you need? Weigh the ingredients, use mathematical language such as 'heavy', 'light', 'full'.
1/3/21	Baa Baa Black Sheep	u, l	Explore different types of materials eg wool, velvet, sandpaper, plastic bag. Can you find ways of sorting jumpers or socks e.g. by material, pattern, size?
8/3/21	Cows in the Kitchen	f, b	Build an enclosure for your farm animals using recyclable materials. What does your animal need for their home?
15/3/21	Jack & Jill	j, z	Put a measuring jug in your garden. After it has rained check how far the water level has risen. Can you record this?
22/3/21	Easter	w, v	Design your own Easter bonnet. Decorate it with different materials e.g. paper flowers, ribbons etc. Make it as colourful as possible.

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

Nursery Rhymes	Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a song bag with toys that relate to specific songs e.g. a bus for 'wheels on the bus', a sheep for 'Baa Baa'. Encourage your child to pull one out of the bag. Sing the song together. Shredded paper in a box with Easter/ farm animals hidden inside. Can they find them? Model the name and animals noise for them to copy. Melt some chocolate and let your child help you stir in rice krispies and spoon the mixture into cake cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore water play with small jugs and cups. Pour water into the cups to have a tea party. Sing 'I'm a little teapot'. Use soft toys and puppets to make a song basket– each toy to represent a song or verse e.g. a selection of farm animals to sing 'Old Macdonald.' Encourage your child to sing along, pause and see if they continue to sing the next part. Roll plastic eggs down a ramp into a box/ basket. Count how many you have collected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play 'pretend' shops with your child. Use recycling materials or food packets as your stock. Count the items and use circle shape card as money– how much money do you need? Can you count out the coins? Different size bottle/ jugs in water. Use language such as 'full, empty, half full, little, almost full' as your child pours water into the bottles. Can they pour the right amount of water to match your bottle? Make Easter nests using shredded wheat or cornflakes. Help measure, pour and stir the ingredients.

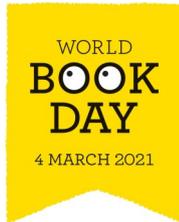


Diary Dates

Thursday 4th March	World Book Day (dress up)
Friday 19th March	Red Nose Day (dress up)
Friday 26th March	End of Term
Friday 2nd April	Nursery Closed
Monday 5th April	Nursery Closed
Monday 29th March– Wednesday 14th April	Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds
Thursday 15th April	Summer term begins

World Book Day Thursday 4th March

Join the staff and come to nursery dressed as a character from your favourite book ready to take part in a fun day of book related activities. Dressing up will be purely optional with no competition and all the children will receive a £1 book voucher. Pre school do not need to wear uniform.



Red Nose Day– ‘Carnival’ Friday 19th March

We invite all children to come to nursery dressed in bright colours to join us for a carnival themed day. The children will take part in a variety of carnival/ dance related activities! Pre school do not need to wear uniform. There will be an opportunity to donate to the charity.



Term Dates

Please see attached our 2021-2022 term dates

15 or 30 Hours Funding

Families eligible for 15 or 30 hours for the first time from April 1st will be given a funding form to fill out and return.



Allocation of Pre-School Places

Each year there is great pressure on our Pre-school places. Children in their Pre-school year all attend for 5 mornings in term-time, as a minimum to allow the full breadth of the EYFS curriculum to be taught in preparation for school. Places are allocated as follows:

Full-time	Year round
Part-time	Year round
Full-time	Term-time
Part-time	Term-time (priority given to 4 days then 3 days etc)
Pre-school	Term-time Monday – Friday (Pre-school hours only)

Shortly, we will enquire about the requirements from September 2021 for Kingfisher and Fun Focus children.

Staffing

We welcome Laura Bradbury, a level 3 qualified practitioner to the Starlings team. Aysha Miah will now work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays.

Oral Health

It is oral health day on 20th March. The following week we will plan activities to help the children learn the importance of oral hygiene and how to brush their teeth properly.



Feeling Good Week 2021

This week is dedicated as Children's Mental Health Week across our district. We all know the importance of good mental health so we organised a 'feeling good' enrichment week to promote wellbeing and emotional resilience in our children. This year we had a 'communication & interaction' theme as we know that the children have missed out on opportunities to interact with others outside of their home and nursery. We planned activities that involved collaboration and communication with the children, discussing what they would like to do in the future. The children have drawn pictures and written 'wishes' for life after lockdown. Some of them were sent off attached to a balloon. We talked about where they may end up and are hoping for other wishes to be sent back to us.

We also discussed the benefits of technology in helping us keep in touch with friends and family. Through our e-safety curriculum we also considered the need to stay safe online and to tell an adult if anything surprising popped up. Kingfishers and Pre-School spoke to each other via video calls and had the opportunity to ask each other questions such as what is your favourite colour? Pre-School shared which phonic sound they had learnt that morning.

Attached is an Online Safety Newsletter from the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. It includes home activity packs for children from the age of 4

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/thinkuknow/documents/thinkuknow/parents/pdf/thinkuknow-4-5s-home-activity-sheet-2.pdf>



Coronavirus

Thank you for your continued support and not sending your child into nursery if they are unwell. To reassure you, our efforts to keep staff and children safe remain undiluted. New staff must have a test before they begin work with us and all staff continue to be tested weekly.

Illnesses

It can be difficult to know when your child is ill with a typical winter illness or when it may be something more. This link may help.

<https://best-start-herts.tfemagazine.co.uk/9-february-2021/news-and-information/childhood-illnesses-winter-leaflet>

Song bag

Please find attached songs that we are learning at nursery that link to our 'Nursery Rhymes' topic. Many are firm favourites that we enjoy singing together at nursery.



Parent feedback

We welcome any feedback about any aspect of Ladybirds Nursery from parents. Please talk to us or email your responses to admin@ladybirdsnursery.com.

Compliments/Suggestions/Concerns: