

Happy New Year to everybody and thank you for all your cards and presents over the festive period. The staff have been touched by your kind words and appreciation.

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

Babybirds: Daya, Jessica

Ladybirds: Logan, Milana, Alex, Raffy, Eva

Curriculum Planning:

The half-termly theme across the Nursery is 'Space & Planets'



Activities to support the pre school sessions:

No. of weeks	Weekly focus	Phonic sounds	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home .
04/01/21	The Earth	s,a	Look at a globe. Identify the colours for land and sea. Try and make your own map of the world.
11/01/21	Astronauts & Rockets	t,i	Use a kitchen roll tube to create your own rocket, what colours will you decorate it with?
18/01/21	Planets	p,n	Cut out 3 different size circles to represent your own planets. Which order should they go in? Smallest—biggest
25/01/21	Life in space	c,k, e	Blow up a balloon and draw your own alien face on it. How many eyes / teeth does it have? What is its name?
01/02/21	Space Stations & Satellites	h,r	Build your own space station using recyclable materials. Think about the type of things you might see? Telescope, rockets etc.
08/02/21	The Sun, Moon & Stars	m,d	Look out the window and see if you can see the moon. Think about the colour / size / shape. How does it change across this week?

How to help support younger children at home:

Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off the lights and use a torch to shine on the ceiling, lay down with your baby and see if they can follow the light by pointing / gazing.</li> <li>Create moon dough with your child by mixing flour (4 cups) and baby lotion (1/2 cup) together. Explore the texture.</li> <li>Create an earth picture using blue paper and green paint. Use your hands to explore the paint and the different marks you can make.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make your own telescope using a cardboard tube, paint and stickers. How many stars can you see when it's dark?</li> <li>Pretend to walk / crawl on the moon, put your cushions on the floor and find an old sheet to cover them with. How can you move around?</li> <li>Make rock cakes. Explore the texture as you mix the wet and dry ingredients. Model describing words for your child to copy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a space tray, using tin foil, rocks, sand, etc. Feel the different textures. Is it hard / cold/ bumpy, rough? etc</li> <li>Decorate a cardboard box to use as a rocket to blast off to the moon. Talk about the marks you are making, colours etc. Why not take some food with you to have a picnic?</li> <li>Sing '5 little men in a flying saucer' with small world people. Encourage your child to count them and then take one away– how many are left?</li> </ul>



### **Diary Dates**

Monday 25th—Friday 29th January	18th birthday Week
Monday 8th—Friday 12th February	Feeling Good Week
Tuesday 9th February	Safer internet day
Monday 15th— Friday 19th February	Half term
Thursday 4th March	World Book day
Friday 26th March	Term ends
Friday 2nd April	Nursery closed (Good Friday)
Monday 5th April	Nursery closed (Easter Monday)
Thursday 15th April	Term re-starts

### **Covid**

Thank you for adhering to the changes laid out in our correspondence on Monday. To reiterate, all parents must wear facemasks when dropping and collecting their child. Staff will also wear facemasks when talking to you but do not during the rest of the nursery day. Feedback will be necessarily brief to protect both you and the staff. If you have a lot to communicate to the keyworker at drop off please email it instead to [admin@ladybirdsnursery.com](mailto:admin@ladybirdsnursery.com) and we will ensure the information is passed on. Remember to log on to your online learning account 'Tapestry' to see in more detail what your child has enjoyed. New observations, photos and videos are uploaded every Friday. We love to see posts from home on 'Tapestry'.

Staff are being tested weekly for Covid 19 using a test through DnaNUDGE that is 94.4% accurate.

The good hygiene practices we began after the first lockdown are maintained and completely embedded in the nursery's practice. All children and staff wash their hands with soap and water upon entry and frequently throughout the day. Each room is a bubble with consistent staff. Bubbles do not mix, if pre school children are in the toilet Kingfishers wait outside and vice versa. The separate entrances for drop off and collecting children will continue. Enhanced cleaning of high use areas eg door handles, stair rail, intercoms, toilet block occur across the nursery day as does daily disinfecting of toys and resources. Children are outside in the fresh air in the park and/or garden daily with appropriate clothing for the cold weather.

Our website contains our Covid response and is updated regularly.

### **Magic Moments**

We have a display of photographs near the stairs which children love looking at, they depict special moments in their lives. For those parents who are new to Ladybirds these are known as our 'Magic Moments'. We ask you to write a sentence explaining the "moment" and (ideally) send it in with a photograph. We then celebrate it with your child and add it to their learning journal. This helps us build a fuller picture of your child. This is supposed to mark special things, so do not feel a pressure to do something immediately, this is a long term-plan e.g. trips, family gatherings, new experiences. Please ask your Keyworker for a hardcopy. Alternately please upload your own observations on Tapestry and we will share these with your child and their friends.



## **Feeling Good Week 8th-12th February**

This week is dedicated as 'Children's Mental Health Week' across our district. We all know the importance of good mental health so for the fourth year running we are organising a 'feeling good' enrichment week to promote wellbeing and emotional resilience in our children. This year our theme is 'Interactions.' We will be providing activities that encourage collaborative play and sharing their experiences with each other during imaginative and exploratory play. Please let your keyworker know about any recent experiences, particularly outdoors that we can incorporate in our planning across the week.



We are delighted that we have been successful in our bid for a grant of £500 to support 'feeling good week'. We plan to spend this on enhancing the babybird garden with equipment to support language and interactions between children.

## **Ladybirds 18th Birthday**

Ladybirds Nursery opened 18 years ago this month. We always have a celebration, often inviting entertainers or visitors into the setting. This year we have decided that each room will plan a birthday party 'on the moon'. The children will help transform their rooms into a Lunar landscape, bake star and moon biscuits, make alien jelly and dress up as astronauts. There might even be a space birthday cake!



## **Internet Safety**

On February 9th we will take part in the global internet safety day to promote safe behaviour for nursery children when exploring the internet. Through songs and stories we emphasise the simple message that they must always tell an adult if something 'surprising' pops up on a device. Please see attached our E-Safety leaflet for more information.



## **Policy Review**

All staff have re-read all our policies to ensure they are up to date and reflect current practice. Brief outlines of our frequently requested policies are on our website [www.ladybirdsnursery.com](http://www.ladybirdsnursery.com) Please contact us if you would like to receive copies of the full policies.

## **Song bag**

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



## **Parent Support**

Family Centres offer support, advice and guidance to parents. Many offer courses that are currently running online. The main Family Centre website can be found at: <https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/family-centres.aspx>

Or via all social media platforms: <https://linktr.ee/StAlbansFCS>

From time to time parents may have concerns about their child's development. Information on Occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy for children and young people can be found at [www.hct.nhs.uk](http://www.hct.nhs.uk) or 01992 823093



## **Parent feedback**

We welcome any compliments, suggestions or concerns about any aspect of Ladybirds Nursery from parents. Please feel free to or e mail your responses to

[admin@ladybirdsnursery.com](mailto:admin@ladybirdsnursery.com).