

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

Babybirds: Isla, Olivia

Curriculum Planning:

The half-termly theme across the Nursery is 'Fairy tales'.



Week beg.	Weekly focus	Phonic sounds Revised/ letter formation	Suggestions for activities for Pre school to carry out at home
21/02/22	Goldilocks and the 3 bears	m, d	
28/02/22	Gingerbread Man	g, o	Look through recipe books together to find something to bake. Talk about the different utensils you have used especially those that helped you measure the ingredients.
07/03/22	Snow White	u, l	Look in the mirror with your child, what is similar eg shape/ colour of hair and eyes? What is different? Can your child describe any facial features?
14/03/22	Pinocchio	f, b	Make a simple puppet using an old sock, decorate it with different features eg buttons for eyes. Can you use it to tell a story?
21/03/22	Jack and the Beanstalk	j, z	How many words can you think of that describe a giant's size? Can you write any—think especially about the first sound.
28/03/22	The Ugly Duckling	w, v	Sing the song '5 little ducks went swimming one day' Use props and act out the song as it happens. How many other songs do you know that contain numbers?

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

Fairy Tales	Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go on a fairy tale walk. Hide some fairies or animals in the garden or park for your child to find. Use leaves, straw and grass to make a sensory tray. Use small world characters from stories to engage in imaginative play. Can your child follow your lead? How do they explore the tray? Make a cosy den/ corner with cushions and blankets. Snuggle up together and share some favourite books. Point to the pictures as you name them. Can your child copy? Talk about what you can see in the pictures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bake a simple gingerbread recipe (see website) with your child, can they help fill / empty the bowl and mix the ingredients. Encourage your child to explore the different textures and model some descriptive language for your child to copy. Whilst in the park or garden collect some natural objects such as sticks, stones and leaves and make animal houses. What do you think would live there? Have a teddies tea party. Find different sized cups, plates and cutlery. Can you find different ways to match items together eg size, colour, use? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant a seed/bean in a cup of soil with your child. Talk to your child about what might happen and what it will need to grow. Look at it each week and see what's changed. Upload pictures onto Blossom to show how your seed has changed. Porridge taste test. Add different toppings eg blueberries, honey, banana etc. Encourage them to help you slice or pour the ingredients. Which one do you like the most? Discuss healthy choices and the importance of brushing teeth Sort clean laundry by size. Is it big/ medium/ small? Who does it belong to? Have races using big and small steps, tip toes etc. Time how long it takes to travel between 2 fixed points. Practice 'Ready, steady, go!'



Diary Dates

Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Friday 18th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 1st April	End of Term
Monday 4th — Thursday 14th April	Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds
Good Friday 15th April	Nursery Closed
Easter Monday 18th April	Nursery Closed
Tuesday 19th April	Nursery open, term begins

World Book Day

Come to nursery dressed as a character from your favourite book on Thursday 3rd March. Please bring in your book to show us and take part in a day of book related activities. Dressing up will be purely for fun, with no competition and all the children will receive a £1 book voucher.



Oral Health

There is a renewed emphasis on oral health in the revised Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. We are delighted that Iliana one of our parents, an Orthodontist, has kindly volunteered to talk to the Pre school children about dental/ oral hygiene on Friday 4th March.



Sprog Sports

Wednesday 2nd March Sprog Sports will be coming into nursery to run a football taster session with the Pre-school children. This will give them the opportunity to improve their co-ordination and general fitness as well as having lots of fun outside.



E safety

Attached is the Spring 2022 e-safety newsletter. Please check page 3 where there is a section on keeping under 5's safe online.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 18th March we invite all children to come to nursery dressed in their disco clothes.



Pre school do not need to wear uniform. The children will take part in a variety of disco related activities and the importance of kindness, empathy and friendship! There will be a tin in each room for donations.



Song bag

Kingfishers and fun focus regularly enjoy pulling items out of a bag and singing songs linked to our half termly theme ie 'Fairy Tales'. So you can join in with your children please see attached booklet.



Environmental health inspection

You may have noticed on our front door we have again been awarded the highest 5 * rating for health & hygiene. This followed a robust, unannounced inspection which checked every aspect of our food and milk preparation, food storage, hygiene procedures and staff records/training.

Term Dates

Please see attached our 2022-2023 term dates for our next academic year. You can also find them on our website.

Ofsted Inspection

As you know, Ofsted visited us yesterday for a routine inspection under the new statutory framework which came into effect in September 2021. Sincere thanks to the many parents who spoke to the Inspector directly or emailed testimonies in. The inspection lasted from 8am—5pm and was a true reflection of a typical day at Ladybirds. As soon as we receive the report we will share it with you.

Water

Starlings children can bring in a named water bottle with a sports type top. Please send it in with your child at the start of the week, we will refill it daily and return it at the end of the week. Children are encouraged to help themselves to water throughout the session and recognise their individual bottle. If they forget their bottle there is always drinking water available in all rooms.



Fees

Unfortunately we are having to bring forward our fee increase to April 2022. Please see separate letter attached. There will be no further increase until April 2023.

Staffing

We will be saying goodbye to Gemma Harris who began with us in January 2013 on Friday 4th March. She is leaving childcare to set up a new printing business with a friend. She has worked across the nursery, been a great room leader, SENCO and will be sorely missed. We wish her the very best of luck with her new venture.

Congratulations to Abbie Speed who beat an external pool of candidates to become Doves room leader. She will begin her new role on 7th March. She will be ably supported by Morgan Draper, an experienced, level 3 qualified childcare practitioner with specific baby experience. Morgan will also manage special educational needs for Doves and Starlings. A warm welcome also to Rosena Jackson, who will be joining the Doves team on 14th March. She too has extensive experience of working in nurseries.

Chioma Lindholm becomes SENCO for the older children and will work closely with Morgan. They both will be supported by Bernadette and Julie.

Warm welcome to Mikaeel, a lovely bouncing boy for Aysha. We hope to see them both very soon.



15 or 30 Hours Funding

Families eligible for 15 or 30 hours for the first time from April 1st need to complete and return the declaration form. We will distribute this out to families who are eligible to complete in the next few weeks.



The Daily Mile

Ladybirds is taking part in a pilot scheme called 'The Daily Mile' The initiative, run by Herts Sports Partnership, is about increasing children's vigorous activity outside. It fits with our healthy ethos, reducing child obesity and building physical resilience. Obviously our usual practice of daily walks in Highfield Park make this easy for us to incorporate. In practice, we are encouraging the older children to run or jog to get to the destination eg maze, rose, duck pond. Obviously this is dependent upon the age of the children and stage. We are teaching them to feel their heart beating faster as they do more vigorous exercise. This feeds into our support for children to develop healthy lifestyles.



Covid update

Whilst mindful of the relaxation of rules generally we are taking a cautious approach. Staff will continue to test twice weekly. Arrangements for drop off and pick up remain the same. We no longer require you to wear masks when talking to staff. Staff may choose whether or not to continue to wear masks.



Staff training.

Recently, staff meetings have focused on the revised Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Pairs of staff have been leading on each curriculum area sharing their expertise. So far we have explored Personal, Social and Emotional development, Communication and Language, Physical development and Maths. In addition to this, we are running a project called 'Terrific Talkers' which is being promoted by Hertfordshire to help close the gap some children have experienced as a result of lockdowns. It focuses on staff developing quality interactions with children to further help their speech and language.

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.

Compliments/Suggestions/Concerns: