

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

Babybirds: Georgie, Kiran, Alex, Hugo, Lea, Mila, Alfie

Ladybirds: Jake, Anna, George, Martim, Xavier, Lazaros, Jude, Henry, Alice, Noah, Cora, Isabelle

Curriculum Planning:

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

Activities to support the morning educational sessions:

	Weekly focus	Sounds	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home
8/09/21	Red		Look at 'red' signs in the environment e.g. post boxes warning signs, traffic lights
13/09/21	Yellow	s, a	Try and put on your nursery polo shirt & jumper by yourself. Can you find your name on them?
20/09/21	Blue	t, i	Lay on your back and gaze at the sky. What shapes can you see in the clouds? Can you make a sky picture at home?
27/09/21	Green	p, n	What colour(s) are your wellingtons? Practise taking off and putting on your wellingtons & shoes. How many green things can you stomp on?
04/10/21	Orange	c & k, e	How many different types of orange fruit or vegetable can you name?
11/10/21	Mixing colours	h, r	Make rainbow biscuits suggested recipe on Ladybirds website https://www.ladybirdsnursery.com/activities-at-home
18/10/21	Black & White	m, d	Make a collage out of newspaper cuttings—how do you hold your scissors? Try to have your thumb 'on top'

How to help support younger children at home:

Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
* Look at your face in a mirror together and name the features e.g. blue eyes, brown hair etc	* Selection of different coloured bath toys, can they sort all the red, blue or green ones together?	* Match different coloured socks into pairs. Extend by sorting by size.
* Play 'peek a boo' using different colours of material to hide behind	* Build a tower using one colour. Can they collect the correct coloured bricks? Whose is taller?	* Play colour eye spy or colour bingo (find a toy/object of a given colour).
* Use opportunities to highlight the weekly colour e.g. blue sky, blue cars then following week red post box, red traffic light etc	* Make a fruit salad together. How many different fruit colours can you use? Chop the fruit and mix the pieces together.	* Treasure hunt of colours. How many objects of one colour can you find? Explore sizes and textures in the box.



Library books

The pre-school children borrow a book from our library stock once a week (starting week of 13th 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) Miss Lindholm & Mrs
Lilian	Clara	Bethany
Lydia	Coco	William
Alex	Raffy	Edith
Juliette	Evie	Logan
Harry	Beatrice	James
Ethan	Aahir	Oliver
Emily	Jake	Kensa
Ryan	Alessia	Alexandros



Staffing

Welcome to Olivia Hay, an experienced practitioner who previously worked in a Reception class and joined us in August. We also welcome Chloe Jelley & Victoria Shortland who both are experienced and hold level 3 child care qualifications.

Room teams:

Doves : Gemma Harris continues as room leader and SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator), with Abbie Speed and Liene Ducena. (Liene is currently on an extended trip back to her native Latvia returning in October). Becky Mostyn (Deputy Manager) is supporting in Doves & Pre School before she begins her maternity leave in October

Starlings: Gen Hemmings remains room leader with Aysha Miah, Teri Page (previously Teri Goldova before her marriage) and Tahida Begum. Gen and Teri are both undertaking a childcare foundation degree so will necessitate some day release.

Kingfishers/fun focus: Michelle Gee (Manager) continues as room leader with Charlotte Sinnott, Helen Page and Chloe Jelley.

Pre school: Sarah Gee is Pre-school room leader and is working alongside Olivia Hay, Chioma Lindholm and Victoria Shortland. (Chioma works Mon-Wed, Victoria works Tuesday, Thursday & Friday) Bernadette Lee and Julie O'Kelly continue to teach on alternate days.

Tahera Choudhury works each day to cover staff lunch and breaks and undertakes much of the extra daily Covid cleaning.

We are fortunate to have a highly qualified and skilled staff team. There is an extensive programme of continuous development at Ladybirds so occasionally your keyworker may not be present, however their absence will be covered by another member of the staff team.

Dates for the diary

15th September	7.30pm for 7.45pm start Pre-school parents meeting
25th October– 29th October	Half Term. Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds only.
15th December	9.30am-10am Pre school play. Parents warmly invited.
17th December	Father Christmas visits & parties.
21st December	Term ends
22nd December— 6th January	Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds only.
24th December	Nursery Closes at 1pm
27th & 28th December	Nursery Closed
3rd January	Nursery Closed
7th January	Spring term begins

Pre-School Parent's Meeting

Wednesday 15th September 7.45pm
(drinks available from 7.30pm)

This is for parents of current pre-school children. Please try to attend this evening to find out more about what your child will be learning. We will outline the 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.



Blossom

We hope you are all accessing Blossom. If you have not downloaded the parent app yet please go to the android or apple store and search for Blossom Educational.

Please direct everyday requests/information (e.g. your child is coming later than usual, a different person is collecting, you want your sun cream sent home etc) through Blossom messenger rather than emailing or ringing. Just to reiterate, the staff in the room do receive your instant messages but will not reply (as they are busy with your children!).

If you have any questions please ask your key worker. We welcome any feedback you have.



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. This half term we will try and provide fruit and veg that matches the colour theme e.g. pineapple and banana for yellow, cucumber for green, strawberries for red etc.



Water

Pre-school and Kingfisher/ Fun Focus children bring in a named water bottle with a sports type top. 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 at snack time if they do not want milk, There is always drinking water available in all rooms.



Terms & Conditions

We have updated our terms & conditions, please see attached. Families who joined after April 2021 will already have the newer version.

Songs

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

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.
- Jumpers and coats 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 a change of clothes at nursery.



Parenting Courses

Please see attached 2 flyers for upcoming parent courses this autumn run by Herts Family Centre Service. Brief details below.



Parenting Puzzle

For parent /carers with children aged three to eleven years, this course will enable you to understand how emotions can influence actions and offers practical ways of guiding children so that they learn to manage their feelings and control their behaviour.

Protective Behaviours

This course will enable parents and carers to recognise and build on their own strengths in managing and understanding their children's behaviour, communicating with others, expressing feelings and making safe choices.

Millie's Mark

We are delighted that we have achieved reaccreditation of Millie's Mark following our initial award in 2018. This is an indication that Ladybirds goes above and beyond the minimum requirements set out by Ofsted that only 2 trained paediatric first aiders are required on site. We were the first nursery in St Albans, and still the only local nursery to have achieved this Quality Mark. It is awarded by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) in association with Department for Education and Millie's Trust. It lasts for three years before re-assessment.

To achieve the award we examined all our policies and procedures to ensure we keep children as safe as possible and minimise risks and accidents. We submitted all our evidence to the Millie's Mark panel who agreed we had met all their criteria. All Ladybirds staff working directly with children are trained in full paediatric first aid (12 hour course) within 3 months of starting. This training has to be renewed every 3 years.

We are extremely proud to have retained Millie's Mark and can assure families that we will continue to be proactive in keeping children as safe as possible.



Covid update

We are hoping to allow parents back into the building on a daily basis this term, exact date to be confirmed. In the meantime the following continue:

- Hand washing on entry by all staff and children maintained
- Enhanced cleaning of toys and resources maintained
- Staff testing twice a week minimum
- Staff **and parents** to wear masks at drop off and collection
- Covid updates are posted on the Home page of our website

Room WhatsApp groups

Each room has a WhatsApp group run for and by parents. Thank you to those parents who volunteered to manage this. If you are new to Ladybirds and would like to be added please let your key worker know and they will pass this on.

Questionnaires

Thank you to the many families who returned our annual parent questionnaire in July. Results and findings will be shared with you shortly.

Parent feedback

We welcome any feedback about any aspect of Ladybirds Nursery from parents. Please feel free to email responses to admin@ladybirdsnursery.com.