

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

Ladybirds: Maddie & Coco

Curriculum Planning:

The half-termly theme across the Nursery is **'Autumn / Winter'**

Activities to support Pre School children.



	Weekly focus	Phonic sounds	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home.
02/11/20	Harvest Festival	g,o	Discuss safety around fireworks and bonfires. Make a poster to help you remember.
09/11/20	Winter weather and its effects	u,l	Draw a weather dial, talk about what types of weather we experience during winter.
16/11/20	Winter Woollies	f,b	Make a list of clothes you need to keep you warm in the winter ? What other things in your home keep you warm?
23/11/20	Wildlife in the winter	j,z	Talk about the different animals that hibernate. Create a model home for one of them to live in.
30/11/20	Advent	w,u	Create your own advent wreath, count out 4 candles to stick onto it.
07/12/20	Christmas	v,y	Sing one of the songs from our Christmas concert to a 'family audience'.
14/12/20	Christmas	x,qu	Write your name in your Christmas cards.

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

Doves

- Explore the park, collect different materials with your child, e.g. leaves, conkers, acorns and sticks. Create a treasure basket from items you found and help them explore the textures / smells.
- Make gingerbread biscuits with your child, encourage them to feel the texture of the mixture / ingredients.

Starlings

- Use chalks in the garden / park and see if you can draw pictures of fireworks, use big circular movements and lines.
- Look at pictures of different animals that hibernate during winter. Can they name the animal / guess the noise they make?
- Help to post letters to their friends and family for Christmas time. Talk about where the letters go.

Kingfishers

- Use a selection of objects made from different materials e.g. metal and wood. Recreate the sounds of fireworks. How do they sound? How can they change the sound?
- Make an ice home for a polar bear by tipping ice cubes into a bowl. Which other animals live in cold places?
- Whilst out and about look at the changes in the environment. Identify leaves changing colour and falling off trees, frost on the ground, cobwebs etc.

Dates for the diary

Friday 13th November	Children In Need (Dress in pyjamas)
Wednesday 9th December	Pre-School Christmas Concert (recorded for parents)
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 17th December	Father Christmas Visits
Friday 18th December	Last day of term
Monday 21st December—Monday 4th January	Nursery open for Babybirds & Holiday Club
Thursday 24th December	Nursery closes at 1pm
Friday 25th & Monday 28th December	Nursery closed
Friday 1st January	Nursery closed
Tuesday 5th January	Term begins

Songs

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



Goodbye to Moira Prentice

After 16 years of working across various rooms at Ladybirds Nursery we will be saying a sad farewell to Moira Prentice who is retiring on Friday 27th November.

We thank Moira for her dedication and care for many children over the years. She has sensitively potty trained scores of children and given thousands of cuddles! Her wise words have been invaluable to many parents throughout her time with us.



Moira has very much been part of the Ladybirds family. She joined in November 2004 when her daughter Caroline was already working here. She has also guided her 2 granddaughters Millie and Skye through Ladybirds.

She will be missed by staff and children. We are planning a farewell tea party where Moira will be 'guest of honour' on 26th November. We are sure you will join us in wishing her well on a restful retirement.

Staffing

Welcome to Chioma Lindholm and Susan Cable who are replacing Moira Prentice in Pre School and are both level 3 qualified nursery practitioners. Chioma, will be working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and Susan the rest of the week. They will overlap on a Wednesday lunchtime. They will meet their key families whilst working alongside Moira on 23rd November.

Sam Miah is reducing her hours to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from the beginning of December. She is enhancing her experience in dietetics which she studied for her degree.

Congratulations Charlotte Sinnott

Congratulations to Charlotte Sinnott who has passed her Level 2 Apprenticeship in The Children and Young People's Workforce: Early Years Educator Course! Charlotte has benefitted from release time at nursery to complete her assignments and exams since joining us over a year ago. Charlotte is now working full time and we are proud of how she is growing as a practitioner. We work in partnership with Hawk, a training company that delivers qualifications in the workplace.

Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds

All children born on or before 31st December 2017 will receive the universal free 15 hours from January 2021.

15 Hours Free Childcare is allocated as follows:

15 hours universal entitlement is applied term-time only 8am-1pm in Pre-School

15 hours universal entitlement is applied term-time only 1-6 pm in Fun focus



Some families may also be eligible for a **further** 15 hours free. To check your eligibility visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you are eligible you will receive a code that must be passed on to us. If you, or your partner are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible. You cannot receive the 30 hours free childcare if you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more but are entitled to 15 hours free.

30 Hours Free Childcare is allocated as follows:

30 hours entitlement (to those eligible) is applied term-time only 8am-1pm in Pre-School plus one additional afternoon 1-6pm

30 hours entitlement (to those eligible) is applied term-time only 1-6 pm in Fun focus plus one additional morning in Kingfishers 8am-1pm

A new invoice will be issued deducting the 15 or 30 hours from January 2021.

The government attach a fixed amount per hour to reimburse nurseries for providing education and care to three and four year olds. Hertfordshire county council pass this on to us at a rate of £5.18. To operate in St Albans this is considerably below our necessary hourly rate (£6.88 for Pre school and £7.34 for Kingfisher/Fun Focus). Currently we do not cap the number of 30 hour places we provide but cannot guarantee this will continue.

Reconfirming

Any child that is currently receiving 30 hours free entitlement will need to reconfirm their eligibility code by 31st December 2020. Anyone claiming it for the first time will need to reconfirm in 3 months.

COVID-19 response

Please have a look at our COVID-19 response page on our website. This details how we are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and is updated when new information is released. Just a reminder that you must not send your child to nursery if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- A persistent cough
- A high temperature (over 37.7 degrees)
- A change in the sense of taste or smell

If parents/siblings test positive the nursery child in the same household must self isolate for 14 days even if they do not display symptoms. This holds true even if they test negative.

If your nursery child is tested, please inform us and send us a screen shot/email of the result.

Christmas Parties and Santa Visit—17th December

On Thursday 17th December, Father Christmas (who lives in a staff members household) will visit with a present for all the children. If your child does not attend this day you are welcome to drop them into nursery and wait for them outside for them to see Father Christmas (they will receive a present even if they are unable to come).



Doves 11am
Starlings 11.10am
Kingfishers 11.20am
Pre School 11.40am

Pre-school do not need to wear their uniform on this day.

Children who usually attend will help prepare Christmas snacks and play party games.

Parent consultations

Twice a year we offer parents an opportunity to have a chat about your child's progress development which lasts 10 minutes. Normally we would invite you into the nursery for a face to face meeting however this is obviously not possible at the moment so we are offering day time telephone appointments over the coming weeks instead. You will shortly receive an email with the date, time and phone number we intend to call (this will be priority 1 person on your registration form). We will attempt to block siblings together but this is not guaranteed. After the consultation you will receive a copy of the brief report.



Children in Need—Pyjama Day

On Friday 13th November we are encouraging all children (and staff) to come dressed in your cosiest PJ's and we will have a day full of fun activities. Pre-school do not need to wear uniform this day. To enable us to raise money for 'children in need' a small monetary contribution would be greatly appreciated. There will be a QR code in the window of your drop off point to scan that takes you directly to the Children in Need donation page.



Pre School Christmas concert

Traditionally the Pre-School have always performed a nativity/Christmas play for the rest of the nursery and their parents. We feel this is a very valuable experience and provides a precious memory for children and parents alike. Sadly this year we are unable to invite parents in as the audience but are very much hoping we can still involve the children. We are planning a Christmas concert where each child will be dressed in a nativity type costume (eg shepherd, king, angel etc). These costumes are from our stock so you do not need to provide anything from home. They will all learn a selection of songs and possibly a dance. We will video the performance on Wednesday 9th December and email you details of how to access it nearer the time.

Parent feedback

We welcome any feedback about any aspect of Ladybirds Nursery from parents. Please feel free to return this slip to the box outside the office or e mail your responses to admin@ladybirdsnursery.com.

Compliments/Suggestions/Concerns: