

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

Babybirds: Ellie

Ladybirds: Felix

Curriculum Planning:

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

Activities to support the Pre School sessions:



Week beginning	Weekly focus	Letters and Sounds	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home
1/11/21	Bonfire Night	'g', 'o'	
8/11/21	Celebrations from different cultures	'u' 'l'	Use a black piece of paper and use chalks to make fire-work patterns
15/11/21	Birthdays	'f' 'b'	Make a cake together, and put candles on it. Sing 'Happy Birthday' to one of your dolls/teddies
22/11/21	Weddings	'j' 'z'	Dress up in your parents' clothes and pretend you are going to a wedding or special celebration
29/11/21	Advent	'w' 'v'	Sweep, dust, Hoover and clean the house together in preparation for putting up Xmas decorations
6/12/21	Baby Naming Ceremony	'y' 'x'	Look at family baby photos together. Can you see any similarities / differences between you and your parents?
13/12/21	Christmas	'qu'	Write your name in your Christmas cards and post them in the nursery post box in lobby
20/12/21	Christmas		Draw a picture list of what you would like for Christmas. Can you think of a present you would like to give someone?

How to help support younger children at home:

Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers/Fun focus
Collect different materials to make a treasure basket. e.g. leaves, conkers, colourful materials. Help them explore the textures / smells.	Look at family photos from special occasions. Can your child name significant members of their family? Talk about the celebration	Look through photos of past celebrations. Discuss similarities / differences between them, eg different decorations, people in the photos. Can they recall any of the day?
Make an Advent wreath by printing handprints on the edge of a paper plate. Decorate with tissue paper. Cut out the middle once dry.	Use chalks in the garden/ on your doorstep and see if you can draw pictures of fireworks, use big circular movements and lines.	Role play going to a party. Prepare some simple snacks together. Can they count the correct number of items onto a plate? Encourage them to dress up in some special clothes, can they dress themselves, attempt fastenings?
Make gingerbread biscuits with your child, encourage them to feel the texture of the mixture / ingredients. https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/gingerbread-men-0	Make a Christmas bell tree by painting a branch with white paint. Cut up an egg box, let your child cover each section in foil. Attach ribbon and hang them from your tree.	Be a firework: Crouch down, count backwards from 5 then jump into the air, clapping your hands for a big bang! Can you spin / twirl? Play instrumental music for them to move to.

Welcoming parents back into the building:

Thank you all for your continued support and co-operation over the past 18 months with adhering to our Covid arrangements. Having reviewed our policies and risk assessments we feel we can cautiously begin to welcome parents back into nursery. The advice from the Department of Education is to wear masks in schools and nurseries so we respectfully ask you to wear them inside the building. The arrangements below are subject to change at any time and will be formally reviewed at Christmas.

Morning arrangements:

These remain the same, you drop at your usual door specific to your room. This allows us to continue with our Covid measures of handwashing and quickly settling the children as they have been used to.

Collection arrangements:

Parents will enter the building to collect. This will be a gradual process beginning with the Doves

Wk of 8th November Doves parents

Wk of 15th November Doves and Starling parents

Wk of 22nd November Doves, Starling and Kingfisher/Fun focus parents

Wk of 29th November Doves Starling, Kingfisher/Fun focus and Pre School parents

The Nursery's main entrance is located on the opposite side to the carpark.

To gain access, press the buzzer in the outer lobby. Your face is seen on the video screens in each room. A member of staff will speak to you through the intercom and release the door when they recognise you. Please be patient. Walk into the inner lobby and wait for a member of staff to release the door at the top of the stairs.

Go into your child's room, (Doves parents please remove shoes or use shoe covers). A member of staff will give you feedback as soon as they can and when is safe to do so e.g. if they are already speaking to somebody or if they are engaged with an activity with the children and cannot leave. Then collect your child's belongings eg lunchbox, any artwork, coat from their peg and head towards the stairs where a member of staff will beep you out and release the door. Please wait for the internal door to close behind you before pressing the green 'exit' button (high up on the left) to release the outer door. Both doors cannot be opened at the same time and you will cause an air lock if you press it too soon.

Safeguarding rules:

- **Never** hold the main door open for others to come in as you leave. They will get stuck in the inner lobby and staff will not know they are there. The button by the internal door is for use in emergencies only.
- Parents are not permitted in/near the children's toilets and must wait in the base room if your child is in/needing the toilet
- Staff will feedback then please leave swiftly as the staff are still responsible for the remaining children.
- At busy times you may be held at the front door to limit the number of parents in the room at any one time.
- Where possible, do not bring older siblings into the building.
- Using mobile phones in the nursery is forbidden. Please finish any phone calls in the park before entering the nursery building.
- If neither parent nor any of your authorised people can collect, as previously, you must let us know the name of the person who is collecting and the mutually agreed password.

Staffing

Maternity leave: Goodbye and good luck to Becky Mostyn, Deputy Manger who has recently begun her second maternity leave. Aysha Miah begins her maternity leave in mid-November. We look forward to meeting both babies.

Congratulations: Well done to Gemma Harris who has been appointed temporary Deputy Manager in Becky's absence. She will continue her role as SENCO and Doves room leader. We are delighted that Liene Ducena beat a field of candidates to become the new starling room leader. She will replace Gen Hemmings, who leaves us at the end of November, for a position in a school to further support her foundation degree in education. We thank Gen for her dedication to Ladybirds since 2018 and wish her every success in the future.

New staff: A warm welcome to our new staff. Courtney Charles-Faulds joined the Kingfisher team, working Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The other days she is at University studying a BA (Hon) in Education Studies. Cora Siu works Monday, Thursday and Friday also in the Kingfisher room. She has a degree in Social work and a Masters in Behavioural health and a wealth of experience of working with young children in Hong Kong. Paris Nicholas whom we have known as an au-pair for a number of years has been volunteering across the nursery. She will be based in Starlings when Aysha leaves. Cosette Leung, BA (Hons) in Humanities shortly joins the baby room on a full time basis.



Consultations week of 29th November

In addition to the regular feedback you receive at the end of a session we offer a formal consultation twice per year (pre school receive a written final report at the end of the summer term). A consultation lasts 10 minutes with your keyworker to discuss your child's overall development and progress. Through Blossom you will receive a summary of achievements about your child. Should you wish to discuss this further consultations will be available by phone during the day, or in person on the evenings of; Tuesday 30th November for any Pre school and Starlings parents and Wednesday 1st December for Doves and Kingfisher parents. Please remember we also have an 'open door' policy so can talk to you confidentially at a mutually agreed time.

Children in Need

On Friday 19th November we are encouraging all children (and staff) to come to nursery dressed as an animal for the day. Pre-school do not need to wear uniform this day. To enable us to raise money for 'children in need' please could your child bring at least £1 to drop in the box which will be in your child's room. This would be greatly appreciated.



Cold weather

Please ensure your child always has a jumper, coat, hat and gloves at nursery. We go out into the park year round.

In the case of extreme weather we always endeavour to keep the nursery open. An email would inform you of any closure as well as a message on the website www.ladybirdsnursery.com. We will notify you of any closure as soon as possible but need to know how many staff have made it in to work to allow us to maintain the legal ratios before making a decision.



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 one to achieve this Quality Mark awarded by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) 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. All employees working directly with children are trained in paediatric first aid within 3 months of starting which is renewed every 3 years. This achievement is an indicator that Ladybirds goes above and beyond the minimum requirements set. This involves practical training on choking, allergies, CPR and common accidents and injuries.



Millie's Mark[®]
Inspiring Excellence in Paediatric First Aid

Invoices unpaid on Blossom

Just a reminder that on the account section of Blossom your invoice will say 'overdue' next to your invoice. Please ignore this as we are using an internal system to monitor payments and the invoice information is purely here for you to check your monthly fee. Payments continue to be due between the 1st and 7th of the month.

Dates for the diary

19th November	Children in Need
Wk commencing 29th November	Optional parent consultations
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
1st January	Nursery Closed



Christmas Production

Pre-school parents are invited to join us to watch our annual Christmas production on 15th December at 9.30am. It will last approximately half an hour. You may take photographs and video for your own use. The children will be practising Christmas songs this half-term as well as doing their normal activities. Obviously, we make the whole experience fun for the children whilst giving them new challenges. We provide the costumes. We can accommodate a maximum of 3 adults per pre-school child. Please try and make alternative arrangements for younger children however if you have to bring them and they are unsettled, please take them out whilst the pre-school are performing.

Christmas Parties and Father Christmas visit

Friday 17th December Father Christmas will be visiting with a present for all the children. If your child does not attend this day you are welcome to drop-in during the session (they will receive a present even if they are unable to come). Talk to your keyworker about a mutually convenient time. The children will help prepare Christmas snacks and play party games. Pre-school children do not need to wear their uniform on



Christmas Jumper Day.



Come to nursery on Friday 10th December wearing your Christmas jumper. There will be a collection box in your child's room and any monetary donations will be going to Save the Children Charity.



Holidays and attendance

To assist us with staff holidays over Christmas it would be greatly appreciated if you could let the office know if you plan to take your child out of nursery over this period.

If your child is absent for any reason please telephone or email the nursery to let us know

Photographer

Emma Collins, the professional photographer was in nursery everyday the week commencing 18th October. Shortly you will receive your child's proof card and instructions on how to log on to view their photographs. If you order before the specified date photos will be returned to nursery so you do not pay postage. There is absolutely no obligation to buy anything.



School admissions

The closing date to apply for a Hertfordshire primary school is 15th January for a place beginning in September 2022. Private schools will have their own arrangements. Pre school parents will find our 'frequently asked questions' about school admissions attached to this newsletter.

Parent WhatsApp

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.

Partnership with parents

To ensure your child makes the best possible progress we rely on working closely with families. There are many ways we do this at Ladybirds:

- Settling in - if your child is new or having difficulty settling into their new room we use the instant messaging feature on Blossom.
- Magic moments - this display is situated at the top of the stairs. Please write a sentence on the proforma (hard copies available on the display board or see attachment to this newsletter) explaining the special "moment" for your child and (ideally) send it in with a photograph. We then celebrate it by sharing it with their peers then displaying it. This information helps us build a fuller picture of your child; staff plan activities around children's interests which is added to your child's learning journal.
- Cultural experiences - please tell your key worker about any special customs/festivals your family celebrate so we can incorporate these into our planning
- Parent visits - we warmly welcome visits into nursery from people who can give children first hand experiences. In the past we have had a bee keeper, policeman, musicians, sari fitter, bus driver and animal trainer to name a few. If you or a member of your family have a skill or cultural experience to share we would love to hear from you.
- Use our website www.ladybirdsnursery.com - there is lots of information on how to help your child. Check out the curriculum tab where you will find the document 'What to expect when' for detailed information about your child's development and progress. How young children learn is explained in the characteristics of learning. Click on the 'news' tab then 'information to parents' where you will find useful leaflets.
- Adding your own observations to Blossom from home, any photo's you add to your child's learning journal allows us to have a well rounded view of your child and their home life. Currently Blossom does not support uploading videos on the app.

Speech and Language therapy

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development talk to your child's keyworker and/or follow this link to latest information regarding pre-school age children:

[Children's Speech and Language Therapy | Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(hct.nhs.uk\)](http://hct.nhs.uk)

Song bag

So you can join in with 'celebration' songs your child will be learning this half term please find attached the words to help you.

'50 Things to do before you're five'

Download the new app for 50 fun things to do in Hertfordshire as a young child. It is packed full of activity ideas and suggestions. Attached is the guide on how to download it.

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:

Compliments	
Suggestions	
Concerns	