

**April 2021**

A warm welcome to the following children who are joining us shortly:

Babybirds: Ayda, Willow, Callie

Ladybirds: William

**Curriculum Planning:**

The half-termly theme across the Nursery is 'Opposites'



**Pre School Show and Tell**

This term we want to expand the children's self-confidence when speaking to a group. To this end we are encouraging each child, on their book-bag day, to bring in the items in the weekly list below. During carpet time we will invite the children from a specific colour group to come to the front to show their item and explain about it to the class. There is absolutely no pressure from us, if a child does not want to come up that is fine. To support your child, it is helpful if parents have talked through the activity beforehand however please let children do the activity for themselves. As the term develops we expand this activity by encouraging questions from the whole class to the speaker. Children usually love to do 'show and tell' and it is good practice for school. Please try and remember the item on your child's book bag day – if your child forgets it please bring it in on a Friday instead.



Activities to support the Pre School

Week beg.	Weekly focus	Blending and segmenting of sounds	Activities to carry out at home <i>and bring in 'to show' on your child's library book day</i>
Week 1: 12/04/21	Wet & Dry		
Week 2: 19/04/21	Hard & Soft	y,z	Make a collection of 'hard' and 'soft' things found in your garden and bring in one from each group to talk about. Think about using interesting vocabulary.
Week 3: 26/04/21	Hot & Cold	s,a	Make some rice krispie cakes. Look at the chocolate being heated. Put it in the fridge. Discuss the changes. Use some empty cake cases to make a collage picture to show us.
Week 4: 03/05/21	Loud & Quiet	t,i	Shut your eyes in the garden or park. What can you hear? Repeat in the living room. What sounds are 'loud'/'quiet'? Write a list for each and bring it in. Try and use your phonic sounds to write the first letter of each noise.
Week 5: 10/05/21	Fast & Slow	p,n	Put your hand on your chest and feel your heartbeat. Do 10 high jumps. Feel your heart now. Has it changed? Repeat with a different exercise. Bring in a photo of you doing any kind of vigorous exercise.
Week 6: 17/05/21	Dark & Light	c, k, e	Make a pair of binoculars using two cardboard tubes. Try putting different transparent sweet wrappers over the ends. What changes? Bring in the binoculars.
Week 7: 24/05/21	Devise your own 'opposites'	h, r	Fold a piece of paper in half, attempt to write the names of your opposites on each side of the paper. Bring in your list.

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

Opposites	Doves	Starlings	Kingfishers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build towers with hard and soft items eg. wooden bricks and cushions.</li> <li>Play with sponges in the bath. Start with dry, what happens when they get wet? Can your baby squeeze the water out?</li> <li>Shine torches on the ceiling and floor. Do they follow the movement of the light? Try putting coloured sweet wrapper over the lense.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use pots and pans to make music. Can they play it loudly or quietly? Change the beaters from wooden spoons to metal spoons.</li> <li>Bake scones with your child. Explore the wet and dry ingredients. Rub the fat into the flour and notice the texture change. Add the milk sparingly so your child can observe the dough being formed.</li> <li>Create an ice sensory tray with jugs of luke warm water, explore the difference in temperature / texture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using a selection of textured objects encourage your child to describe how each feel eg a prickly nail brush and a soft paint-brush.</li> <li>Race cars together. Which one goes faster? How can you make them go fast and slow? What happens when you use a slope?</li> <li>Make a den using towels, sheets and blankets. Add a torch, what happens?</li> </ul>

### **Covid update**

The government has now delivered lateral flow test kits for nursery staff. This means that at Ladybirds all staff will now be tested twice weekly, once with a lateral flow test and once with the DnaNudge (PCR) test which we have been using since January. Ongoing thanks to Danny and Ariadne's mum for maintaining the DnaNudge testing.

We are relaxing the room bubbles to form a Ladybird bubble (Pre School & Kingfisher/fun focus) and a Babybird bubble (Doves & Starlings). This allows enhanced experiences for the children who will have access to different resources and spaces. It will also facilitate visits room to room. Within the Ladybird bubble Kingfisher children are likely to be in the Pre School room in the afternoons, Pre School children will be based in the Kingfisher room after Forest school. Each room maintains its own door for entry/exit so there is no change for parents dropping off or collecting.

Frequent handwashing still remains a priority as does enhanced daily cleaning throughout the nursery.

The DfE have announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500 if they meet the eligibility criteria (which includes receipt of certain low income benefits).

The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which ends on 30 June, ensures that parents receive some financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities and are unable to work from home, read more at: [www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment](https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment)

### **Ladybirds New Website**

[www.ladybirdsnursery.com](http://www.ladybirdsnursery.com)

We are delighted to announce that next week we will launch a brand new website. We have worked closely with a professional designer to produce an easy to use website with our distinct brand. Further information to follow.

### **Pre School class photo**

#### **Wednesday 9th June**

The photographer will visit to take a class photograph of Pre School before they transfer to school. You will see a proof of the print to enable you to decide whether you would like to buy it or not. Please ensure children have the cleanest uniform on that day!

### **Hertfordshire Family Support Service**



Hertfordshire's Family Centre Service is made up of the Public Health Nursing Service (Health Visitors and School Nurses) and the Family Support Service. Their purpose is to support children and families to have the best start in life, develop well and thrive. The attached leaflet provides details of what the Family Support Service offers and how to access it. They provide families with children aged up to 11 years with a wide range of information and support on key areas relating to family life. Please visit

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/family-centres.aspx> for further information.

## Bottles, Cups and Babies Teeth

*Did you know that prolonged bottle feeding can cause decay in babies and young children's teeth? There are lots of ways to minimize the risk and help our children to grow up with healthy teeth!*



If you are bottlefeeding introduce a free flow cup alongside the bottle from 6 months. This will help baby get used to a cup.

Try to get baby off bottles completely by the age of 1 because the teats encourage children to suck for long periods of time meaning the drinks that can cause tooth decay are in contact with the teeth for longer.

Try to use a free flow cup as sippy cups are similar to bottles in that they require children to suck to make them work.

For nighttime feeds try to give baby a sip of water or gently wipe the teeth with a flannel after the feed so that the milk isn't left sitting on the teeth.

Milk or water are the best drinks for children's teeth avoid putting anything else in the bottle including flavoured milk or juice.



## Phonics

This last term in Pre-School we cement the children's knowledge of the initial phonic sounds. Your child may bring home a little bag with letters to support this. These are 'sounds' your child already knows and provide an opportunity for them to 'show off' to you and build their self-confidence. Please hear them practice these letter sounds which are increased each week. When the initial sounds are all known confidently children can start to physically put 2/3 sound cards together to form words e.g 's', 'a' and 't' says 'sat'. Model how to blend the sounds together by emphasising each sound slowly. Can your child hear the word you have said? Can they now blend a new word? We may send home games/word lists/sheets on an individual basis to support this. These should be fun activities, for a few minutes maximum at a time. Please ask the Pre-School staff if you have any questions about your child's phonic development. To hear how we pronounce the sounds check out

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IwJx1NSineE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IwJx1NSineE)



## Staffing

Welcome to Teri Goldova who works full time in the Starlings room. She is currently studying an 'Early Childhood Education' degree through the University of Hertfordshire. We are also delighted to have Tahida Begum who works Wednesday—Friday and is based in Starlings. Tahida has a degree in Sociology.

Becky Cooper has decided to leave Ladybirds. Her last day is 16<sup>th</sup> April. She has achieved her level 3 in Childcare via the apprentice route during her time with us. We wish her all the very best for her future. Charlotte Sinnott now becomes their key worker fulltime, having already been working with them on a Monday in Becky's absence. Julie and Bernadette will lead green group on a Thursday and Friday morning in Pre School.

## Car park

If you want to play in the park after pick up please do not park in the car park as you risk being locked in. The car park is locked promptly after the nursery shuts at 6pm.



## Hot Weather

Please make sure your child's draw string bag is equipped for the hot weather with suitable clothing. Parents must provide named summer hats and sun cream. Please make sure you apply sun cream before your child comes to nursery. We will re-apply your sun cream in the middle of the day. Summer shoes must have toes and heels covered as there is lots of gravel out in the park and children need to run freely.



## Song Bag

Please find attached songs Helen Page has put together around the curricular theme of 'Opposites'



[www.ladybirdsnursery.com](http://www.ladybirdsnursery.com)



[www.facebook.com/pages/Ladybirds-Nursery/522371854458914](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ladybirds-Nursery/522371854458914)



[twitter.com/LadybirdsN](https://twitter.com/LadybirdsN)

### **2021 Sustainable St Albans**

Sustainable St Albans Week 23 May– 6th June This award winning event is about making the district a more environmentally sustainable place to live. It's aim is to engage the community and find positive and creative ways to act locally to address the challenges of climate change and finite resources.

There are 100+ events across the week for families to come and enjoy. These are run by local community groups, businesses, faith groups and schools.

Visit <https://sustainablestalbans.org/> for more events.



### **Diary Dates**

Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)
Monday 31st May	Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)
Tuesday 1st –Friday 4th June	Half Term (Nursery Open for Holiday club and Babybirds)
Wednesday 9th June	Pre-School Class Photo

### **Nursery Visits**

As you know, parents have been unable to come into the nursery due to the pandemic. However, we have been showing prospective parents around approximately once a month on a Saturday. Each family has a timed slot, follows a one way system from the front door through the building and exits via the garden gate. Thorough cleaning occurs before the nursery re-opens. Our next open morning is this Saturday 17th April, then 22nd May (both fully booked) then the 19th June.

### **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](mailto:admin@ladybirdsnursery.com).

Compliments/Suggestions/Concerns: