

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

Babybirds: Callie & Kacper

Ladybirds: Liam

**Song bag**

Please find attached songs based around our theme of 'sport'. We will be learning them over the next half term.

**Curriculum Planning:**

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

Activities to support the Pre School sessions:



No. of weeks	Weekly focus	Blending of Sounds	Suggestions for activities to carry out at home and bring in 'to show'. <b><i>This half term, on their book bag day, all children are encouraged to 'show' and 'talk about' their activity brought in from home.</i></b>
1 07/6/21	Dance	m, d	
2 14/6/21	Water Sports	g, o	Create a boat by using plastic punnets, tissue boxes, kitchen roll tubes. When having a bath check if it floats or sinks
3 21/6/21	Contact Sports (Hockey, basketball)	u, qu	Practise your ball skills, can you throw / kick / catch a ball? Count how many times you can do it in a row. Write the highest number down and draw a picture of you with the ball.
4 28/6/21	Racket/ bat & club Sports	f, b	Design your own bat/racket. What size and shape does it need to be? What sport is it for? Draw a picture of your design.
5 05/7/21	Football/ Euro 2021 Finals	j, z	Design a shirt for one of the football teams in the Euros. Write a number on it.
6 12/7/21	Races	w, v	Take part in a running race. Ask someone to time you. Repeat. Write down your quickest and slowest time. How do you feel before and after? Compare heartbeat, skin temperature etc. Why do you feel different?
7 19/7/21	Goodbye and good luck	y, x	Draw a picture of something you have really enjoyed about Ladybirds.

**How to help your child at home**

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

**Doves**

- Whilst in the bath or with a large bowl/ paddling pool practice splashing/kicking their legs and arms. Can they copy you?
- Use masking tape to mark out a roadway. Race cars and trucks by pushing them around the roadway whilst making motion noises e.g. zoom, whoosh, beep beep.
- Roll and kick a large ball back and forth together.

**Starlings**

- Throw small balls or a pair of balled up socks into a container. How many did they score?
- Whilst in the bath have boat races. Does it go faster if you push it or blow it?
- Practice running races. Listen for the 'Ready, steady, go!' before starting.

**Kingfishers**

- Design a basketball jersey. Make marks to represent their chosen number e.g. age, door number
- Agree a start and finish line. Take part in a selection of races eg. running, jumping, tiptoeing etc. win a few races and remind them that its about taking part not winning!
- Set some race challenges "Who can finish first?" e.g. tidying up, getting ready in the morning/ at bedtime, completing a puzzle or task. Encourage them to make marks for the score on paper.



### Dates for the diary

12th - 16th July	Phone call Parent Consultations (for parents of doves, starlings, kingfishers and fun focus) Pre-school reports issued to parents and receiving schools
20th July	11.30am outdoor pre school graduation—parents welcome (information below)
20th July	Last day of term
21st July	Holiday club begins
8th September	Term re-starts

### Pre School leavers

Please ensure all childcare vouchers and standing orders are cancelled once your final payment has been paid. Any adjustments and deposits will be returned when Sarah, our book keeper, has confirmed all fees are up-to-date.

### Staffing

Samiha Miah who works part-time in Starlings leaves us on 23rd June. She is getting married later in the summer and we wish her all the best.

A very warm welcome to Danielle Nembhard (Monday—Wednesday) and Tahira Busry (Wednesday—Friday) who recently have joined the Ladybirds team and are based in the Doves room.

As restrictions begin to ease, staff have holidays booked. These will be covered by university students, the majority of whom have worked for us in the past. All are DBS checked and known to us personally.

### 14th July—Sports Day

Unfortunately we have had to take the decision to cancel our annual sports day and family picnic to which parents are normally invited. Instead, we will arrange an in house sports day for the children to participate in a variety of races and upload some photos and videos to Tapestry. Additionally 2 bouncy castles will be available for the children to enjoy with staff whilst at nursery. Where possible, we will aim for the children to have a picnic lunch in the park on this day.



### Tuesday 20th July 11.30am—12.15pm

Pre school parents, please join us on the last day of term to see your children graduate from Ladybirds Nursery. We will present them with their leavers certificate. The children will have prepared some songs for you. This is for the whole of the pre school including those who are remaining for holiday club. This will be held outside the Starlings room in the parkland.



### Pre school Children's Committee

This half term we are establishing a children's committee (a bit like a school council) to give children a bigger 'voice' about what happens at nursery. This week we discussed the concept of voting for the person they think will do the best job. In circle time on Friday, voting will take place. The 3 successful committee members (one from each colour group) will have to find out what the other children would like at nursery and tell us at a meeting in the office. Subsequently, we will try and accommodate their requests or explain why 'wishes' may not be possible.



### Fees from September

New fees are effective from the 1st September 2021. These are detailed in a separate document attached to this newsletter.

New invoices for September and thereafter will be issued in due course. Please ensure payments reach us before 7th of each month.

### Covid update

We still have not had any positive cases amongst staff or children. Staff continue to be tested twice a week and our enhanced cleaning regime continues. Accordingly, we are moving towards the nursery operating as a single bubble. This allows us to accommodate visits to different rooms (see information below). However, we will maintain our 'no visitor' policy until further notice. We are liaising with local primary schools to allow them to visit our pre school but in the garden or park only. If they have to enter the building we are insisting on a negative lateral flow test done within 24 hours. Buggies and car seats can now be left in our outer lobby.

### Pre School uniform

All pre school children are required to wear the yellow Ladybird polo shirts and sweatshirts. A book bag is also required to transport our library books to and from nursery (this does not have to be our nursery one). Uniform can be purchased from our supplier direct:

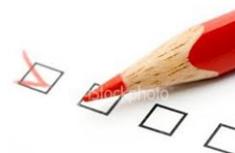
[www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/LadybirdsNurseryAL4](http://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/LadybirdsNurseryAL4)

### Visiting Rooms

Across the next few months Starlings and Kingfisher children will begin visiting their new rooms. All children transitioning to Pre-School in September 2021 will have the chance to enjoy a Pre-School morning session throughout late June to mid July. Starlings moving to Kingfishers in September will visit throughout July and August. These experiences allow children to become familiar with their new environment, meet the staff in their new room and learn about the new routine. Visits will take place in small groups.

### Parent Questionnaire

You will receive our annual questionnaire on the day of the consultations. We really value all your views and ideas and hope for a high response rate. The information gleaned feeds into our action plan and is genuinely helpful for our future planning.



### 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. Pre school parents will not receive a phone call but will have a more detailed written report instead. This will be sent on to your child's new school. If you wish to discuss it, talk to your key worker direct.



### Empathy day 10th June

Tomorrow is 'Empathy Day'. Being able to understand how other people think and feel is a vital skill. Download the attached pack to find ten empathy-boosting things for the whole family to do at home. You can do the activities in any order and you don't need specific books to take part. Drawing and craft materials are helpful, but all the activities can be done with just scrap paper and a pen.

Research shows that reading inspires children to talk about emotions and see the world from other people's perspectives.

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/b2f3fbc2/files/uploaded/Family%20Activities%20Pack%202021%20%281%29.pdf>

### Holidays.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are planning holidays over the summer as this helps us plan staff holidays. Obviously the rules around holiday destinations on the amber/green list is changing all the time. Please tell us where you plan to go and factor in time for self-quarantining and PCR testing before returning to nursery.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

### Landline

01727 730 783

Problems are now resolved and the line is working normally.



### 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).

## Healthy Start Food Campaign

The Healthy Start Food Vouchers are £4.25 per child, following lobbying from England footballer Marcus Rashford, who has now teamed up with TV chef Tom Kerridge, to help provide families with recipes to make the most of the vouchers. To access 52 great recipes, based on the voucher scheme, visit Full Time: [Get cooking with Marcus & Tom.](#)



If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old you could be entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers worth £4.25 per child per week (£8.50 if under 1) to spend on milk, plain fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables, and instant formula milk. You can also use them to buy pulses and canned fruit and vegetables as long as they have no fat, salt, sugar or other flavouring added. The vouchers can be redeemed at local retailers.

If you are entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers you will also get free vitamins designed to help pregnant and breastfeeding women and growing children.

To be eligible you should be in receipt of certain means-tested benefits. [Check your eligibility now.](#) Pregnant under 18 years olds qualify whether or not they are entitled to a qualifying benefit.

There are over 5,000 pregnant women and young children missing out on £221-£442 per child per year to spend on healthy food, so it's important to be aware of this useful source of support.

Take-up of the vouchers is very low, around 45 percent of those eligible, so it is important to check eligibility as soon as possible to prevent missing out. Application leaflets are available from GP's surgeries or baby clinics. Alternatively, a form can be obtained by ringing 0345 607 6823 or by downloading and printing one from [www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/)

To access free information about benefits and check your eligibility, [visit the benefit-checker on Hertfordshire County Council's website.](#)

## Fussy Eaters

If you struggle to get your child to try new foods or finish their portion try this free course for parents.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fussy-eating-masterclass-tickets-157948292595>

WONT EAT THEIR VEGGIES? CANT GET THEM TO TRY ANY NEW FOODS? THEN JOIN OUR

# FUSSY EATERS MASTERCLASS

AND GAIN THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO MAKE HEALTHY HABITS FOR YOUR FAMILY!

REGISTER FOR YOUR PLACE NOW!  
It's freeee!!

13:00 - 14:00 • Monday 5th July

## Parent ChatHealth 0-5 years

Get advice from the health visiting team via their text messaging service for parents and carers of babies and children aged 0-5 yrs. This new service will support parents and carers of babies and children aged 0-5 years in Hertfordshire, get advice with health related issues and improve their access to health care.

Messages sent to the dedicated number **07480 635164** are delivered to a secure website, and responded to by a member of the health visiting team. The service is available Monday- Friday 9-5pm with automatic replies sent to messages received out of hours.

<https://www.hertfordshirefamiliesfirst.org.uk/may-2021/current-news/parent-chathealth-0-5-years>