



AUTUMN 2 – 2024

# NEWSLETTER

*A place to learn, achieve and grow*

## Dates for your diary

### DECEMBER

20th - Break up for Christmas holiday  
WB 23rd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

### JANUARY

6th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)  
15th - Reception place application deadline  
22nd - SEND parent meeting (AM & PM)

### FEBRUARY

5th - NSPCC Number Day - maths parent workshop  
7th - NSPCC Number Day  
11th - Safer Internet Day  
13th - Break up for the half term holiday  
14th - STAFF TRAINING DAY  
WB 17th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)  
24th - Back to nursery (spring 2)  
26th - Oral health parent workshop

### MARCH

5th - World Book Day (book character dress)  
5th - PSS/ EP/ OT SEND training session for parents (external agencies delivering)  
19th - SEND parent coffee AM & PM— transition focus  
21st - World Down Syndrome Day (wear odd socks to nursery)

### APRIL

9th - SEND parent coffee AM/PM w/SENCOs  
11th - Break up for Easter holiday  
16th - Primary school place offer day  
WB 14th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)  
16th - Reception place offer day  
28th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)

### MAY

5th - Bank holiday (nursery closed to all)

**Executive Head Teacher:** Sam Richards

**Nursery Manager:** Janine Maidment

**SENCO:** Gail Goldberg

**Teacher:** Jason Lee

**Office Manager:** Amna Bibi

**Admin Assistant:** Shabnam Hussain

**Nursery Practitioners:** Kaneez Rafique,

Naz Ali, Sabah Kabir (mat leave),

Shazeha Akhtar, Farkhanda Jabeen &

Shazia Badaruddin

## Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for heading over to our Autumn 2 newsletter.

It has been a wonderful half term, and an especially enjoyable last couple of weeks, embracing the festive season.

We've been lucky enough to enjoy so many special experiences with the children: playing in the snow, decorating the trees, joining in a Christmas story-telling drama session, festive cooking, Christmas parties, plenty of singing, a Winter Wonderland extravaganza with the children and welcoming a very special visitor (Ho, Ho, Ho!).

**SEND coffee morning** - Our coffee morning was attended by many families across our cluster, they got to hear first hand about the partners we work with such as the Communication and Autism Team (CAT) and Speech and Language Therapist (SALT). Lots of questions were asked and many tips shared which families found helpful. Thank you to Gail & Janine for organising the session.

**School applications** - May I remind those of you with children going to school in September, to please submit your application online. Do ask us if you need any help—the deadline is 15th January but we advise not leaving it until the last week in case any problems occur with logins, etc. There is more information on the school admissions process here: <https://shorturl.at/s5TZg>

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas for those celebrating, and a prosperous and healthy new year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

*Sam*



## Shout Out!

We would like to give a big shout out to Naz who successfully completed his Early Years Professional Development Programme.

Well done, Naz!



**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

**Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.**



## Contact Us

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'Jakeman Local Authority  
Maintained Nursery School'

## CURRICULUM FOCUS



**Autumn 2:** During this half term, children have been learning about the Startwell characters, we have introduced 'Suzy Startwell' who helps children learn about keeping healthy. Children have been engaging in daily exercises, including high intensity movement.

Children have noticed the change in their environment, with snowy and rainy days and have talked about what this feels like.

'It's freezing', 'It's ice', 'Look, it's melted'. They have developed more independence in putting on rain coats and wellies when it is wet in the nature hut.

Children have engaged in exploring different media through inspiration of the artist 'Wassily Kandinsky'. Children have created circles using tubs, paint, and free-hand to paint and draw circles. These marks all aid early writing skills.

Through stories, such as Goldilocks, children have been able to recall what happens next, remember different characters, share emotions such as 'How does she feel?', and consider 'Is Goldilocks safe?'. This extended to children wanting props to re-enact the story.

Many children in big nursery attended a real theatre production at the Midlands Art Centre, 'Finding Santa'. Children recalled their experience through group discussion.

'The witch was scary', 'It was dark', 'The elves are cheeky'. This led to children wanting to write letters and drawing pictures to send to Father Christmas, asking him to come to nursery.

Music has been a huge interest! Children explored Jazz music in more depth, whereby they have used their listening skills and responding to different tempos.

### Other updates:

Children in Need - We raised £76.30 which has now been donated to support vulnerable children. Thank you to all our families that contributed.

The early writing workshop was a success with over 27 families attending. Parents were delighted that their children were progressing and understood more how their children learn early writing skills through a play based curriculum.

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

### Attendance last year (2023-24)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	81%
Little nursery	76%
<b>All</b>	<b>79%</b>

### Attendance this half term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	81.5%
Little nursery	78.5%
<b>All</b>	<b>81%</b>

It was a good first half term for attendance but we have seen a dip this last month or so.

We want every child to access as much of their education entitlement as possible.

Our aspiration is to get to 90% attendance.

It can be tricky, especially at this time of year, to know when to keep your child off school when they have signs of winter colds. The NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' is useful to refer to if you are unsure: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### RRSA links:

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child links = **Article 3:** best interests of the child  
**Article 28:** right to an education

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



*If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If the phone is engaged, please leave a message.*

## SPRING 1

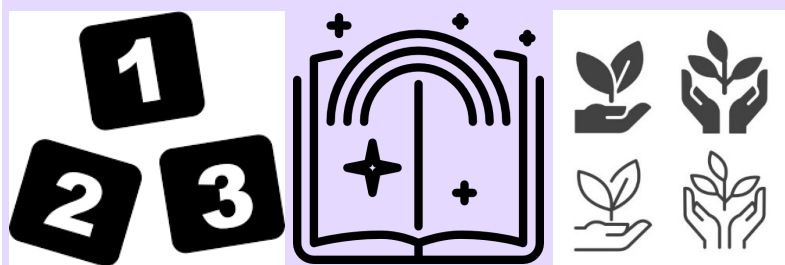
The learning focus will be introducing the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. This will further extend children's vocabulary and enjoyment for reading, as well as exploiting opportunities for them to use props to explore the story through role play.

As part of our growth project and sustainable living commitment, we will be working with the children to begin the spring planting. This will include flowers (to promote visiting insects), and fruit and vegetables.

Children have become confident in counting in sequence up to ten, They will now explore real number through every day experiences at nursery to extend their understanding of:

Cardinality - knowing the last number counted represents the whole amount and;

Being able to use number for purpose in play scenarios





# Startwell



## **BE A ROLE MODEL FOR THE CHILDREN**

Children learn from copying the behaviours of those they see around them. As a parent or practitioner, it is important that the behaviours children around them see and copy are positive.

Research suggests that parent's who role model physical activity as part of their own lifestyle are more effective at getting their children to engage in physical activity themselves (Bois, 2004).

I'm Suzy Startwell and I am the Startwell role model. I help to set a positive example for all the Startwell messages.

### **As a role, model allow children to see adults:**

- Eating fruit and vegetables, drinking water throughout the day
- Being involved in active play and physical sessions
- Participating in meal times
- Modelling movement skills
- Food shopping and preparing food
- Enjoying being active, having fun, & modelling movement skills

### **As a role model, support children by:**

- Encouraging them to try to eat a variety of foods
- Praise them when they try a new activity or food
- Talk to them about food and making healthy choices
- Involving children in food shopping, food prep & meal times
- Help them to find activities they enjoy



## SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS



Apply online for your child to start Reception class

For those of you whose child is 4 or turns 4 by August 31st 2025, your child is due to start Reception in September.

Every child requires an application for this move to school.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY HELP WITH LOGGING IN OR COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION.**

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

The deadline for completion of the application is:

**15th January 2025**

Applications submitted after 23:59pm on 15th January will be marked as a 'late application'. These applications will not be looked at until after offer day on 16th April 2025. Late applications are far less likely to receive one of their school preferences.

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES



The following website shares very important information and tips on keeping children safe: <https://capt.org.uk/>

The safety tip shared recently by the CAPT (Child Accident Prevention Trust) is around safe bath time.

### **Safe baby bath time: Top tips**

Whether you love or loathe bath time, it's important to keep safety in mind as sadly, many accidents happen in the bathroom.

The main risks are:

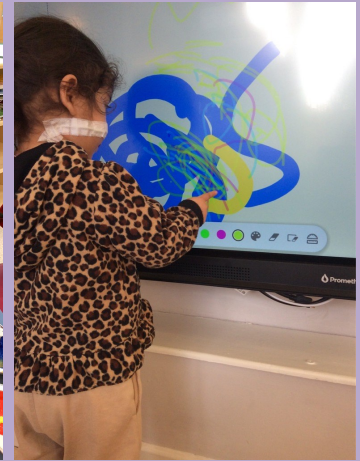
**DROWNING** - It only takes a few centimetres of water for babies and toddlers to drown. Their lungs can fill with water very quickly and they can drown in minutes. This all happens silently, with no noise or struggle to alert you that they're in trouble. Stay with your baby or young child all the time they're in the bath.

**BURNS** - A baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's, so bath water can cause devastating burns with life-changing scars. Always run cold water first and test the temperature with the back of your hand.

Visit <https://capt.org.uk/safe-baby-bath-time/> for more information on bath safety.







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