



AUTUMN 2-2025

# NEWSLETTER

*A place to learn, achieve and grow*

## Dates for your diary

### DECEMBER

19th - Break up for Christmas holiday  
WB 22nd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

### JANUARY

5th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)  
15th - Reception place application deadline  
19th - NDP Team (Neurodevelopmental Pathway) coffee morning 9am-10:30am

### FEBRUARY

6th - NSPCC Number Day - maths parent workshop (actual day = 7th)  
10th - Safer Internet Day  
13th - Break up for the half term holiday  
WB 16th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)  
23rd - Back to nursery (spring 2)

### MARCH

4th - World Book Day (book character dress) (actual day = 5th)  
20th - World Down Syndrome Day (wear different socks to nursery)  
27th - Break up for Easter holiday  
WB 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

### APRIL

13th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)

### MAY

4th - Bank holiday (nursery closed)  
7th - Jakeman under 2s provision CLOSED for voting day  
22nd - Break up for half term  
WB 25th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

### JUNE

1st - Back to nursery (Summer 2)

## Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support this term and for all the Christmas well wishes we've received.

School applications: Very important reminder... Action is required for children who will be 4 by 31st August 2026 and going to school in September 2026. See page 3 for more details. This online application must be done by the deadline on 15th January for your child to receive a Reception school place on the offer day in April.

Recent training day: On Monday 24th November, the staff team at Jakeman all participated in 'Trauma Informed Attachment Aware Schools' (TIASS) training. For the second part of the day, we learnt about and practiced emotion coaching strategies. We'll be sharing some of this content with parents soon, look out for information on a meeting date in the new year.

Brilliant Brushers launch and toothbrushes given out to children: As part of the Brilliant Brushers programme, in collaboration with Colgate, all children have now received Colgate toothpaste and toothbrush. Let us know if you don't have one. Children are learning the skill of dry brushing their teeth in nursery and practicing at nursery once a week; they are still required to brush their teeth (supervised) twice a day at home. We hope they can show you the good brushing skills they've been learning!

Social media: Follow us on Instagram and/or Facebook by scanning these QR codes on another device →

Finally, as we enter a school holiday, let us remember that the new years brings a fresh start, filled with new opportunities and hope - look after yourselves and have a joyful break.

Sam

FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



**Executive Head Teacher:** Sam Richards

**Nursery Manager:** Janine Maidment

**SENCO:** Gail Goldberg

**Teacher:** Hannan Bagl

**Office Manager:** Amna Bibi

**Admin Assistant:** Shabnam Hussain

**Nursery Practitioners:** Kaneez Rafique, Naz Ali, Sabah Kabir (mat leave), Shazeha Akhtar, Farkhanda Jabeen, Khfire Aldhubab, Farzana Bibi, Samira Bi & Shazia Badaruddin

**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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Follow us on  
TWITTER

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Maintained Nursery School'

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INSTAGRAM

Jakeman\_nursery\_  
school

## AUTUMN CURRICULUM FOCUS



**During this half term**, children have explored the work of Kandinsky: exploring colour mixing, layering and circles. Children have used different media such as paint, ICT, clay, corn flour and foam.

The children have been working with a music specialist - Nicola Burke - learning new rhymes and exploring pitch and rhythm. They have been introduced to new instruments, such as drums, xylophone, shakers and bells. Children are developing their listening skills and doing a fantastic job at remembering the different sounds of the instruments.

We all celebrated Harvest Festival and collected food items for Sparkbrook Food Bank. The children learnt about their right to healthy food and the importance of sharing.

Our weekly shopping trips has given children the opportunity to explore their local community, talk about their own experiences, write shopping lists, gain independence in buying food items and exploring various cooking opportunities. They made apple crumble, play dough and healthy green juices.

Children have learnt about road safety, learning a new song has helped them to remember what they can do to keep safe.

The weather has supported lots of wonderful exploration of change in the environments, fun in the rain and experimenting with ice.

All the children have enjoyed the investigation and fact-finding of insects and bugs; they have made webs, habitats, created drawings and used clay to explore the features of spiders.

As we are approaching the Christmas break, we have had a party day, seen Father Christmas, decorated the Christmas tree and showed excitement about the very cheeky elf's adventures. Children also had an opportunity to visit the theatre at the MAC to see The Owl that Came for Christmas.

It was brilliant having parents engaged in our writing workshop, with 35 or so families attending to learn and play together with us, focusing on all things mark making, fine motor skill development and early writing.

This half term children all achieved the bedtime reading challenge, enjoying the writing of Julia Donaldson. Paddington Bear home link has encouraged children and their families to join in 'wake up shake up' at home.

We enjoyed having parents join us to watch our Christmas songs and enjoy hot chocolate and biscuits, ending a wonderful half term!

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

2025/26 year to date	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	80%
Little nursery	76%
Under 2s	88%
<b>All</b>	<b>79%</b>
Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	76%
Little nursery	77%
Under 2s	95%
<b>All</b>	<b>78%</b>

Please take the time to read our attendance policy and support approach, this can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4jrnpwxr>

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

Our aspiration is to reach 90% attendance this year.

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. Hopefully the NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' below will help.

### 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

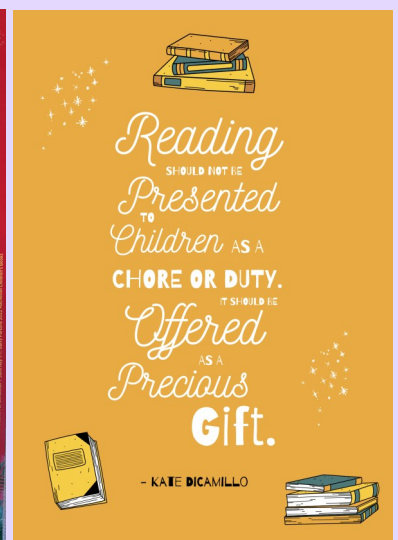
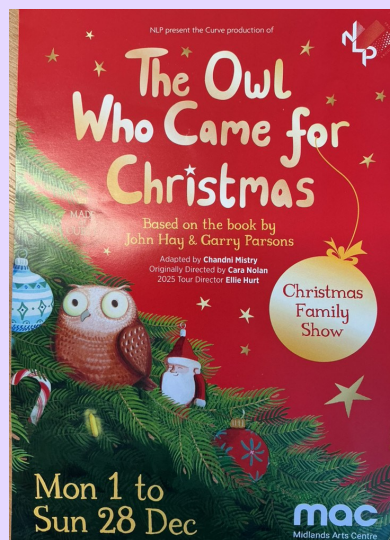


*If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If the phone is engaged, please leave a message.*

## NEXT HALF TERM...

**Next half term**, we will be focusing on Oral Health, Rhyme Challenge and the Bedtime Story Challenge 2. We will be exploring the work of Vincent Van Gogh and we will continue our musical exploration with our music specialist. Children will be learning about counting and clapping syllables in words through stories and rhymes.

Children have been doing lots of story telling and this will be extended by bringing in drama and music to bring those stories to life.





# STARTWELL

Startwell have shared their '12 days of Christmas' activities for families to take part in over the festive period.

The full ideas list can be found on the final page of this newsletter, and also here:

[12 Days of Christmas Startwell Challenge - Startwell 2020](#)

Coming up soon...

## 23rd – 25th January: Big Garden Birdwatch

Organised by the RSPB, the Big Garden Birdwatch is a great opportunity to explore nature with the children. Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

Why not take a wildlife bird watch walk with Active Azra to see how many birds and what different types you can spot? You could extend this by making bird feeders or reading stories or non-fiction books about birds.

To find out more and see how you can take part, visit:

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#)



Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/>

## FLU VACCINATIONS



[Protecting your child against flu: Information for parents and carers](#)  
[Children's flu vaccine - NHS](#)

On 1 September 2025, the annual flu vaccination programme for preschool children launched. All children aged 2 and 3 years old (on 31 August 2025) are eligible for a...

Flu vaccine is offered free to:

Children aged 2 or 3 years old (on 31 August before flu vaccinations start in the autumn)



School-aged children (Reception to Year 11)

## 5 reasons to get your child vaccinated

### 1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

### 2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

### 3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

### 4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

### 5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Children from 6 months of age with a health condition that puts them at greater risk from flu



Further information on which children are eligible each year can be found at: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

...free flu vaccination in the form of a quick and painless nasal spray. Preschool children can get the flu vaccine at their GP surgery, and some participating community pharmacies.

Children who can't have the nasal spray for medical or faith reasons can request an alternative flu vaccine that is given as an injection instead, which does not contain any porcine gelatine.

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

The following website shares very important information and tips on keeping children safe.



### 6 simple safety tips to keep children safe this Christmas

Let's keep it merry with six simple safety tips you can do that won't add to the to-do list: [Keep children safe this Christmas | 6 simple safety tips](#)



## SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS



[Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2026](#)

For those of you whose child turned/turns 4 on or before August 31st 2026, your child is due to start Reception in September. Every child requires an application for this move to school.

Please let us know ASAP if you need any help with logging in or completing the online application.

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

**Deadline for completion of the application is: 15th January 2026**

**School place offer date is 16th April 2026**

Any late applications (submitted after 15th January) will not be processed until after this offer date.









*A place to learn, achieve and grow*

If you don't yet follow us on **INSTAGRAM**, please do! Janine, Hannan and Sam enjoy posting photos and videos to share what we get up to each week!





# Startwell's

## 12 Days of Christmas



Suzy Startwell wants everyone to pick and play their favourite Christmas song and role model high energy dancing to all the children.



Smiley Shen wants you to create a snowy picture using toothpaste and a toothbrush on coloured card, a snowman would be good. Coloured toothpaste could also be used to colour some cut out bauble baubles.



Active Azra wants you to help Santa deliver his presents, but first Santa needs to find them. Place Christmas objects around the room / garden and call them out for the children to find.



Micky Me Size wants you to draw around your hand in a circle so that you know the size of your plate. Now draw around your fingers and turn your hand into a reindeer giving it a red nose and two eyes – check out our Winter Pinterest board to see how!



180 Katies wants you to play the Startwell 180 Katie song which is perfect for this time of year as it has a Christmas tune. (This can be found on the Startwell website). Learn the words and dance along!



2 Snacks Max wants you to create an edible Christmas bauble. Spread cream cheese on top of rice cakes and decorate with chopped up fruit and vegetables to look like a bauble. Remember food safety to avoid choking. Enjoy!



Sammy Skills wants you to practice your throwing and aiming with 'Snowball Target Practice' – scrunch up some paper to make a snowball, aim and throw them at a Christmas target.



Fay 5 a day wants you to use Christmas shaped cutters for your snack. Try using a Christmas tree shape with watermelon and a star shape with melon or pineapple. Remember food safety to avoid choking.



Active Azra wants you to go on a reindeer hunt with her. The cheeky reindeers are hiding round the setting/garden and need to be brought back to pull Santa's sleigh. Can you find them? Remember to gallop like reindeers.



Micky Me Size wants to help children leave the right amount of food when Santa comes to visit. Get a big bowl for Santa, 7 medium bowls for his reindeers and small bowls for his elves! Use carrots to see how much each of them should be eating!



180 Katies wants you to play Christmas relay races. Can you use a Christmas teddy as the relay baton to pass to your friends to run and pass it on. Make your heart go Boom. Boom, Boom.



Fay 5 a day wants you to serve fruits and vegetables in a Christmas arrangement-e.g. Christmas tree, stocking or nowman. Alternatively make a Christmas picture using seasonal vegetable peelings such as carrot, parsnip, sprouts and cabbage. Remember food safety to avoid choking.

