



AUTUMN 1-2025

NEWSLETTER

A place to learn, achieve and grow

Dates for your diary

OCTOBER

WB 27th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

NOVEMBER

3rd - Back to nursery (Autumn 2)

14th - Children in Need (wear pyjamas & donations welcomed)

20th - United Nations World Children's Day—wear blue to promote 'My day, my rights'

24th - STAFF TRAINING DAY (nursery closed)

DECEMBER

17th - Trip to the MAC—theatre production 'The Owl That Came for Christmas'

17th - Christmas Wonderland event

19th - Break up for Christmas holiday

WB 22nd - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

JANUARY

5th - Back to nursery (Spring 1)

15th - Reception place application deadline

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)

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for reading our first newsletter of the year. This term we've welcomed a new permanent member of staff: Hannan Bagl, Nursery Teacher, based in big nursery/'Sycamore' room, and 3 staff to support us this year due to recent growth of provision: Khfire Aldhubab, Farzana Bibi (Nursery Officers) and Samira Bi (Lunchtime Supervisor). We've also welcomed additional teaching support from Lauren, Aliya and Nimrah, all based in the Elm and Oak side. We've all had a wonderful time supporting children to settle in this half term.

Home activity ideas: We share our fortnightly home activity ideas with parent carers; this includes us sharing the song, Makaton sign and UNICEF Right that we'll be learning in nursery, with some ideas of age-appropriate activities you could try at home. This helps to embed and further develop what the children will be doing in nursery. We send this link out in a text message fortnightly, but they can also be accessed any time on our website under the 'parents' section.

Coming up: After half term, we will be taking part in Children in Need, World Children's Day and plenty of Christmas festivities. All our key dates (event days, parent workshops and activity sessions, term dates) are also on the home page of the website, right at the bottom.

Under 2s: We are extremely proud and privileged to now have a baby room open again to children under 2 years. These 6 children are based in our 'Willow' Room in the 2-storey building. We have a separate Ofsted registration for this provision, although it sits under the umbrella of Jakeman Nursery School. This provision is called Jakeman Nursery School Daycare.

School applications: 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.

Weather: At Jakeman we believe there is no such thing as 'bad weather' just 'bad clothing'. We want children to enjoy outside learning all year round. Please can we ask that parents provide warm and waterproof clothing for their child/ren.

Stay and Play: Reminder...community under 3 years 'stay and play' session on Tuesdays, 9:15-10:45. Thank you for your ongoing support, we hope you have a great week, **Sam**

Children in Need - children can wear pyjamas to nursery on Friday 14th November. We'll be collecting donations.

World Children's Day... 'My day - my rights'. We'll be supporting children to talk about their lives, their hopes and their rights.

Children can wear blue on Thursday 20th November to mark this important day.

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



unicef | for every child



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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AUTUMN CURRICULUM FOCUS

LEARNING

In autumn 1 children have settled in well and are building relationships with their peers and teachers. They are becoming familiar with routines and enjoy coming together as part of a family group. They have been learning about their rights to healthy food and the right to rest and play. Children have been learning how to manage their feelings through the 'Colour Monster' and learning breathing techniques to help them regulate their emotions as part of Mental Health Awareness week. This also forms part of our every day curriculum.

Children have been looking at the work of Jackson Pollock, we have compared his work with ours and looked at the different ways we can make marks. We have blotted, splattered, dripped and flicked paint to create lots of different marks and patterns. We observed how colours mixed together and we have learnt how to make the colours pink and purple. We are having lots of fun in the studio. As part of healthy living week we sorted foods into 'everyday' foods and 'sometimes' foods. We helped to cut up some fruit to make a fruit salad for snack and we made salad too. The children's interest in boats and trains has been observed, with children emerging in imaginative role play. They have built structures, created boats and travelled to different destinations! ICT has been used to support children in mapping their journeys.

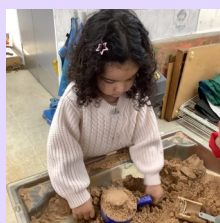
In the home corner we are learning how to make playdough, we are measuring, pouring, mixing and kneading the ingredients.

Children have also started the 10 week book challenge, exploring books written by Julia Donaldson. This promotes early reading and the love for reading, fundamental in children's communication and literacy skills.

This week, children celebrated Diwali with making crafts and food tasting.

Pumpkins and natural autumnal items in continuous provision has sparked lots of mathematical language, questions, curiosity and wonder.

During Autumn 2 children will have an opportunity to experience a live theatre production 'The Owl That Stayed for Christmas' which will be held at the MAC near to Christmas. The interest in travel via different modes of transport is a continued interest, we are yet to discover the *journey* this will take us! Our 2yr olds have been particularly interested in sensory play, this has been explored through real fruit and vegetables, sand, water, corn flour, mud and paint. Through these experiences children are developing a wide range of early writing skills such as palmer grip, pincer grip, squeezing, pinching, cutting, rolling and many more. This helps strengthen little muscles in the hands which is needed for early writing.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance last year (2024-25)

	Attendance %
Big nursery	83%
Little nursery	80%
All	82%

Attendance this half term

	Attendance %
Big nursery	84.5%
Little nursery	75%
All	80.5%

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

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

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.

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK.

Coughs, colds or sore throat - It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough, cold or sore throat. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Conjunctivitis - You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Ringworm - If your child has ringworm, see a pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case, see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea - Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

High temperature - If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away. **Chickenpox** If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Ear infection - If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

STARTWELL

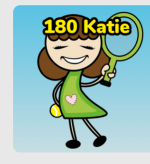
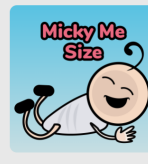
For those of you who are new to Jakeman especially, let us introduce you to Startwell.

The early years of life is a vital time to set healthy foundations to prevent obesity later on in life. Our lifestyles are significantly influenced by early life experiences. Healthy lifestyle intervention at a young age can influence food choices, physical activity levels and leisure activity choices and these are likely to continue into adulthood.

The Startwell characters, that you will see over the course of the year are →

Sugar Awareness Week: 17th—23rd November

Eating too much sugar can cause us to gain weight, has a detrimental effect on our teeth and can contribute to tooth decay. 2 snacks Max promotes having 2 healthy snacks per day. Smiley Shen helps promote keeping our teeth healthy by reducing intake of sugary foods and drinks. Did you know, the recommendation for children, their health and their little teeth, is just 1 sugary treat per week?



World Nursery Rhyme week also takes place in November. Active nursery rhymes with actions encourage movement! Check out Startwell's Character Karaoke here:

Startwell Character Songs - Startwell 2020

Look at the Startwell website for more tips and advice:

<https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/about-startwell/>



Startwell

THE WAITING ROOM

TWR
THE WAITING ROOM

Birmingham and Solihull Health & Wellbeing services at your finger tips

<https://the-waitingroom.org/>

This website is a go-to for any well-being services families may need. These are just a few of the categories:

Abuse

Addictions

Carers

Children and Young People

Communities

Criminal Justice

Disability Support

Education and Employment

There are helpful websites, helpline numbers and social media links for everything you could possibly need as a family.

We are always here to help in any way we can as a nursery school, but if you prefer to find support for your family yourself, this website is one to remember.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

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

With Halloween and Bonfire Night all quickly approaching, this is one of the most exciting times of the year for children. But it can also bring additional safety challenges. So, to help keep children safe this season, the Child Accident Prevention Trust have got some key safety tips and resources. Did you know sparklers can burn 16 times hotter than a kettle? Or how easy it is to buy powerful rockets unsuited to family back gardens?



The CAPT fireworks advice hub covers all the safety essentials. <https://capt.org.uk/firework-safety/>

SCHOOL RECEPTION PLACE APPLICATIONS



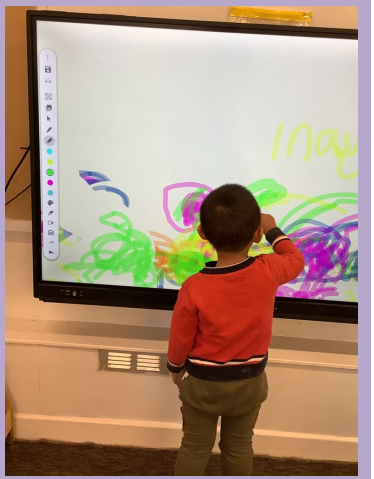
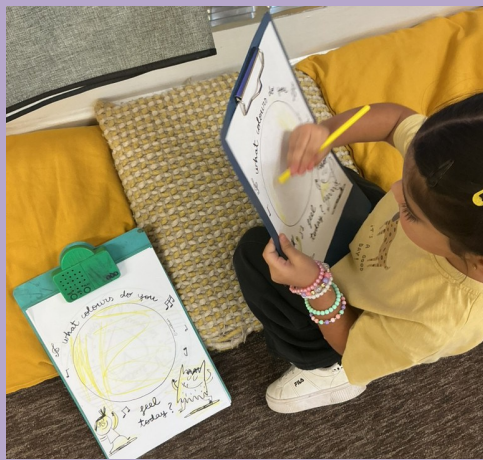
Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2026

For those of you whose child turned 3 on or before 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

Remember, you can visit your preferred school's website or call them to find out when you can go and look at the school if you'd like to. The deadline for completion of the application is: **15th January 2026**





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!