

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 1 2025 - 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year! Inside, you'll find key information and updates for the Autumn, Spring, and Summer Terms, along with news from our team.

A very warm welcome to our new starters and returning children — we're so proud of how well the children are settling in, learning our routines and making new friends.

We hope you find our newsletter informative. You can also find details about the pre-school, including our policies, on our website: <https://ladybirdpre-school.org.uk/> Thank you again for all the support in helping your little ones settle in.

Kind regards

Amanda Sanders, Pre-School Manager

Dates for your Diary

Event	2025 Dates
Last day of term	Friday 24 th October
October Holiday Club	w/c 27 th October - places still available
Pre-School re-opens	Tuesday 4 th November
Settling-In Reports	w/c 4 th November
Fundraising evening	Thursday 6 th November, 6.30pm, Knife and Cleaver, Houghton Conquest
Christmas Activity Fun Day (AKA Parent / Carer Christmas Shopping Day!)	Saturday 15 th November 9am-4pm. Details below
Children's Christmas Concert	Thursday 4 th December 2025 2.30pm (No After Pre-School Club) Details to follow
Ladybird Christmas Bazaar	Saturday 6 th December, 11.30am-2.00pm
Ampthill Christmas Tree Festival	Saturday 6 th and Sunday 7 th December
Children's Christmas Parties	Tuesday 9 th & Thursday 11 th December. Details to follow
Last day of term	Friday 19 th December
	2026 Dates
Pre-School re-opens	Tuesday 6 th January
February half-term holiday	w/c 16 th February - Friday 20 th February
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 23 rd February
Come and tell a story	Thursday 26 th February. Details to follow
Formal Parents Evening	Tuesday 3 rd & Thursday 5 th March. Details to follow
Open morning for new starters	Saturday 21 st March-10am-12pm

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Mother's Day Afternoon Tea	Saturday 7th March 1pm-3pm- Details to follow
Easter holidays	w/c 30th March-Friday 10th April
Easter Holiday Club	w/c 30th March-Thursday 2nd April
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 13th April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May
Bingo/Chips Night	Friday 27th February and Friday 5th June
May Half Term	w/c Monday 25th May-Friday 29th May
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 1st June
Sports Day	Friday 12th June 2pm-3pm- (No After Pre-School Club). Details to follow
Dads Breakfast	Saturday 13th June- Details to follow
Summer Fete	Saturday 27th June details TBC
Leavers' Party	Wednesday 8th July details TBC
Last day of term	Friday 17th July
Summer Holiday Club	w/c 20th/27th July/3rd August

General News and Events:

October Holiday Club: Running from Monday 27th to Friday 31st October, for children aged 3 - 7. For more info or to book your space, please contact: admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk.

Settling-In Reports: You will receive your child's report during after the half-term holiday. The report will summarise of how your child is settling in, and will be shared via Tapestry. You will receive a more in-depth report during parents evening in March 2026.

Christmas Activity Fun Day 15th November: A fun-filled day for children age 3 - 7, perfect for giving you space to do some Christmas shopping! Festive activities and games are run by the Ladybird team. Book your space by 31st October by completing the form here <https://forms.gle/ZkqjU9iHyodfrYrK7>.

Cost: £19.99 per child and includes a healthy lunch and afternoon snack.
Sibling discount £17.99.

Christmas Bazaar and Raffle Saturday 6th December 11.30am - 2.00pm:
See our **Fundraising Update** below for full details and how you can help!



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St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival 6th and 7th December:

We are taking part in this lovely local tradition again this year. Please pop in to see your child's decoration on our tree, and vote for the best decorated tree!

Fundraising Projects:

We hope to replace the worn / damaged access steps into the Caterpillar room, outside reading area, and the entrance and Forest School gates. We have applied for a grant through the 'Rookery Grant Scheme' and would also use money raised from the Christmas Bazaar to fund the works. If we raise enough funds, we hope the works will take place during the Easter holidays 2026.

Staff news and team updates:

We say goodbye to Natasha and Bronwyn and welcome Oriana and Karli to the team.

Fundraising: Wow! What a busy start to our Autumn term! Our fundraising team has been hard at work preparing for our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 6th December.

We've already secured some amazing raffle prizes, including a Nintendo Switch bundle, £100 and £50 cash prizes, plus vouchers for Marks & Spencer, Smyths Toys, Next, Tesco, and more prizes!

Most of our fundraising comes from raffle ticket sales — and we need your help! After half-term, each family will receive a book of raffle tickets to sell. Please ask for more once you've sold your first book. There's a prize for the top seller, so please sell as many books as you can to family, friends, colleagues and neighbours!

If you can help us prepare for the Bazaar or help out on the day, please come to our next meeting on Thursday 6th November at 6:30pm at the Knife and Cleaver, Houghton Conquest, email fundraising@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk or join our WhatsApp group — every bit of support helps create the learning environment our children deserve.

Lianne, Fundraising Co-ordinator

Phonics: In our morning Phonics sessions, we have been learning how to sit together in a circle, take turns, and share during Show and Tell. We have shared lovely pictures of our families, stories and treasures from the summer. Next, we'll begin exploring letters and their sounds. Each session will recap six graphemes (a letter that relates to a sound), their pronunciation, and a rhyme, followed by a fun game or activity to help reinforce learning. *Tiffany, Phonics Co-Ordinator*

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Physical Activity and Nutrition (PANCo): The children have been enjoying lots of different activities to teach them about healthy choices when it comes to our bodies, including teeth brushing. The children are learning why it is important to brush our teeth twice a day for two minutes and how to do this. Please find below some songs about brushing teeth and getting ready for your children!

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XLQpRI_wOQ
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCio_xVlgQQ

Children's Wellbeing: At Ladybirds, we aim to ensure that children can understand their emotions and how to deal with them or ask for help. We have been working on the children feeling comfortable and happy to share their emotions and how to express them. We hope over the course of their time at Ladybirds, they feel safe to be able to express themselves however they need to!

Your Wellbeing: We are very passionate about well-being at Ladybirds and would like to share contacts and numbers for you to use if you may need.

- Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774 (helpline)
- Beat - 0808 801 0677 (eating disorder advice)
- CALM - 0800 58 58 58
- No Panic - 0300 7729844
- www.mind.org.uk for other advice and contacts.

Mandy and Jade, Wellbeing Leads

Fees and funding: Thank you for making the payments for Autumn Term 1. Your invoice for Autumn Term 2 will be with you after half-term and is due by 5th December. Later this term, we'll remind you to apply for / reconfirm your 30 hour code, if applicable. You'll also be sent the Parent and Carer Agreement form to secure funding for the Spring Term. If you have any questions, about fees, funding, Holiday Clubs or would like to be on a waiting list for any available sessions this year, please contact me at admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk.

Victoria Grimes, Administration Manager

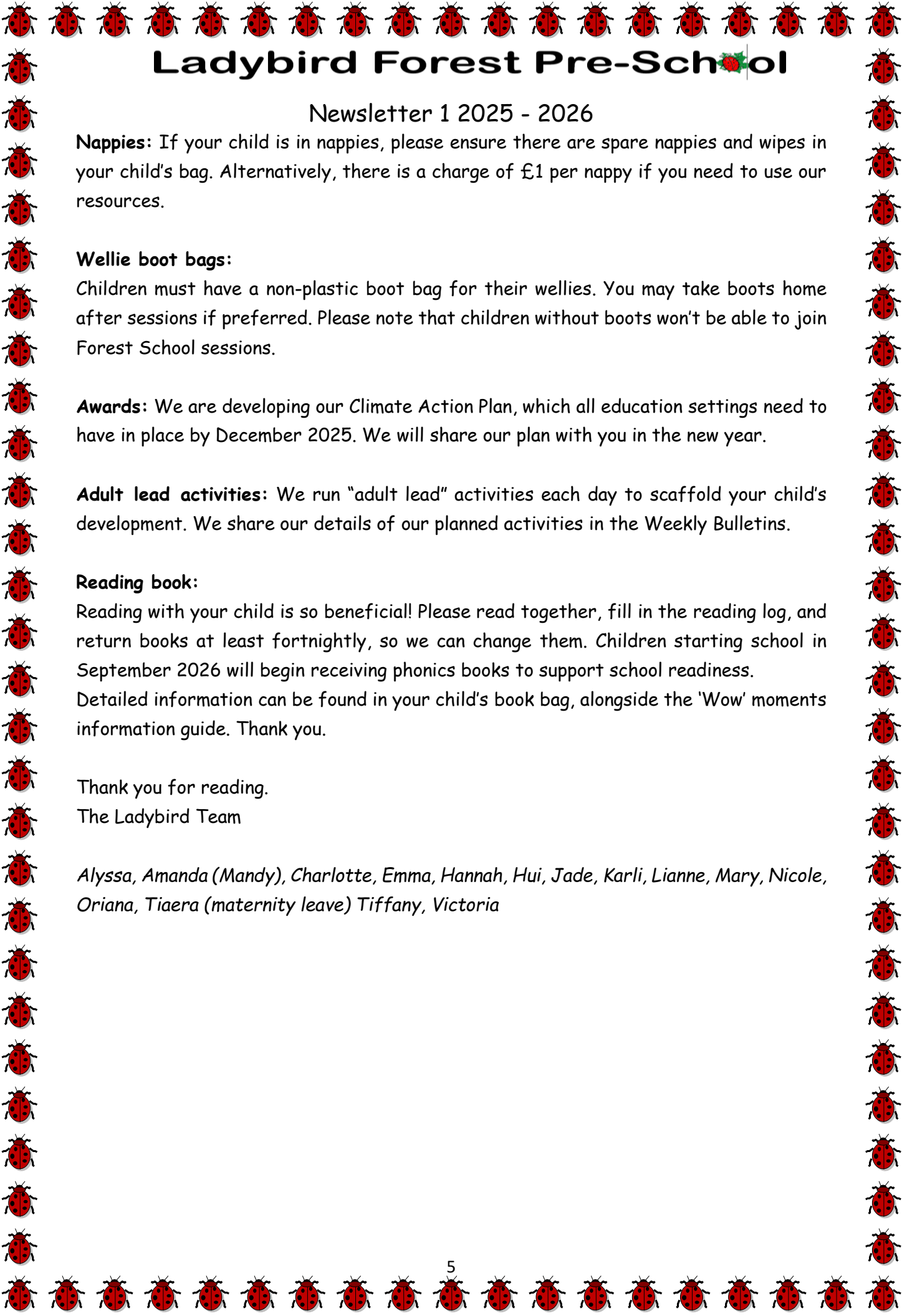
General Info and Updates

November/December Birthdays 2025: Happy 3rd Birthday: Alfie, Edith

Happy 4th Birthday: Alice, Jesse R, Jesse T, Keeva-Rose, Laya,
Nate

Staff Birthday: Hannah, Lianne, Tiaera





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Nappies: If your child is in nappies, please ensure there are spare nappies and wipes in your child's bag. Alternatively, there is a charge of £1 per nappy if you need to use our resources.

Wellie boot bags:

Children must have a non-plastic boot bag for their wellies. You may take boots home after sessions if preferred. Please note that children without boots won't be able to join Forest School sessions.

Awards: We are developing our Climate Action Plan, which all education settings need to have in place by December 2025. We will share our plan with you in the new year.

Adult lead activities: We run "adult lead" activities each day to scaffold your child's development. We share our details of our planned activities in the Weekly Bulletins.

Reading book:

Reading with your child is so beneficial! Please read together, fill in the reading log, and return books at least fortnightly, so we can change them. Children starting school in September 2026 will begin receiving phonics books to support school readiness. Detailed information can be found in your child's book bag, alongside the 'Wow' moments information guide. Thank you.

Thank you for reading.
The Ladybird Team

Alyssa, Amanda (Mandy), Charlotte, Emma, Hannah, Hui, Jade, Karli, Lianne, Mary, Nicole, Oriana, Tiaera (maternity leave) Tiffany, Victoria