

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 2

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to our latest newsletter which shares info and updates regarding the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

We hope you find our newsletter informative, and would like to remind you that you can also find details about the pre-school, including our policies on the pre-school 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	Dates
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th December
Pre-School re-opens	Tuesday 6th January
February half-term holiday	w/c 16th February - Friday 20th February
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 23rd February
Come and tell a story	Thursday 29th February. Details to follow
Formal Parents' Evening	Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th March. Details to follow
Open Morning for new starters	Saturday 21st March, 10am-12pm
Afternoon Tea	Saturday 7th March, 1pm-3pm. Details to follow
Easter holiday	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	Details to follow
May half-term	w/c Monday 26th May - Friday 29th May
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 1st June
Sports Day	Friday 12th June 2pm-3pm. Details to follow
Dads Breakfast	Saturday 13th June. Details to follow
Amptill Big Tent Weekend	9 th - 12 th July. Details to follow
Leavers' Party	Wednesday 8th July. Details to follow
Last day of term	Friday 17th July
Summer Holiday Club	w/c 20th/27th July/3rd August

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General News and Events:

Good News: We are in the process of securing funding to replace the remaining Pre-School fencing adjacent to the school reception playground, both gates leading into the pre-school, the outside reading area, the steps leading into the Caterpillar room and two rotten benches. We will be using recycled plastic products purchased from a UK-based company to help reduce our carbon footprint. If the grant is successful, the work will take place during the Easter break due to the timescale of the project.

Cooking: Due to limited time, we can find it difficult to prepare food from scratch with the children and would like to extend cooking at home. From next term all children will be sent home with an easy-to-follow visual recipe card, along with the ingredients to make at home. All cooking packs will be sent home during the last week of term, and we would like the children to share their experiences onto Tapestry. The best cook will win a special named wooden spoon.

Climate: All education establishments need to have a climate action plan in place by the end of 2025. We aim to share our plan with you in the new year.

Fundraising Projects:

Our fundraising team spent the Autumn Term preparing for the Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to everyone who came to the event, bought and sold raffle tickets, donated prizes and helped on the stalls. We hope your children enjoyed the day as much as we did!

Thanks and well done to our top raffle ticket sellers:

- *Parent / Carer: Leigh (£90) plus proceeds from her photograph studio*
- *Staff members: Mandy, Emma and Lianne (£570)*

We raised an incredible **£1,856.10**. Amazing!

The monies will be spent on the following:

- New seating within the quiet area (Inside)
- New role play resources for outside.
- Revamp the outside sandpit

A HUGE THANK YOU again!!!!

Please see a list of our kind and generous sponsors at the end of this newsletter.

We are planning more events and fundraising opportunities for the rest of the year - watch this space!

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Easter Holiday Club 2026:

Our holiday Clubs are open to children age 3 - 7 and are run by the Ladybird team, who fill the days with fun activities. Easter Holiday Club runs from 30th March - 2nd April, and you may be able to use "left-over" funding to help with the costs. Prices start from £15. Please book your space here: <https://forms.gle/sY9f5D8PaXC5Sds8>

Grants/Projects:

We are looking to improve our energy efficiency, by replacing remaining older light fixtures with LED lights and install motion sensors in areas with intermittent use. We will try to secure funding to install triple glazed doors and windows.

Staff news and team updates:

This week, we say a very sad farewell to Jade, and wish her all the very best for the future. This term we have welcomed to the team Karli, who has many years' experience working with children, and Kadena and Oriana who are qualified in Early Years to Level 3 qualified and above. We are in the process of recruiting an additional team member.

Children's wellbeing: The children have embraced our daily wellbeing sessions. Together, we will learn how to understand our feelings, and calm ourselves. We hope that as they grow, the children will continue to use these valuable skills, such as asking a grownup for calm down time, counting to ten and taking deep breaths. Wellbeing practice will continue throughout the year, including use of our Calm room.

Support over the holidays:

If you or your child need support over the holidays, there is a range of different ways to get this. Please visit the below links for information.

- Mind: <https://www.mind.org.uk/>
- Central Bedfordshire Support:
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/222/mental_health_and_wellbeing_guidance_and_support_services

Mandy/Emma, Wellbeing Leads

Phonics: I am so impressed with how the children have engaged with the ELS phonics programme this term. Each day we explore sounds, pictures and rhymes for each letter. The children try very hard to repeat the sounds, say the rhymes and practise writing

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using our 'magic writing fingers' to "write to the wall, write to the floor and write to your leg."

Many children have now mastered writing the six letters: **s a t p i n**. Thank you for supporting your child's learning of these letters at home.

Each child now has letter picture cards for the letters in their name uploaded to Tapestry for use at home. Next term, as we introduce more letters and play new games, we will continue to recap all letters learned so far.

Please keep show-and-tell items coming in. Children may bring in a new item each day. Items should be named, small enough to fit in trays, and linked to the letter(s) of the week. Keep up the fantastic work!

Tiffany, Phonics Lead

Forest School:

What a great start our little explorers have had at Forest School - well done Ladybirds! This term we have focused on developing independence, including finding pegs, managing wellie boots, and putting shoes on and off independently. If you could continue to support your child to develop their independence at home too, that would be great! The children have enjoyed learning our Forest School rules and exploring the environment. I look forward to many exciting adventures next half term. For more information about what we'll be doing, please see the planning document attached with this newsletter.

Oriana, Forest School Teacher

Fees and funding:

Thank you for making the payments for Autumn Term 2, and for returning your completed Spring term funding forms (Parent and Carer Agreement forms), if you are using funding next term.

Reminders for parents/carers using existing 30 hour code:

Please remember to reconfirm your code every three months (or as prompted by GOV.UK). Some families are given less than three months to reconfirm, so please regularly check your childcare account and note your deadline date.

Your invoice dates for the Spring term are:

Invoice dates			
Term payable	Invoice period	Invoice date w/c	Due date
Spring 1	06/01 - 13/02	12/01	30 days from invoice date
Spring 2	23/02 - 27/03	23/02	30 days from invoice date

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If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Victoria, Admin Manager

General Info and Updates:

Starting School in September 2026:

The deadline to apply for your child to start school in September 26 is **15th January**.
See here for more info:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place

Reading book:

Reading with your child is hugely beneficial. We politely ask that you read the books with your child, complete the reading log, and return at least fortnightly so that the books can be changed. All children starting school in September 2026, will start receiving phonics books alongside their other books, helping them get ready for school. Further info can be found in your child's logbook bag, alongside the 'Wow' moments information guide. .

January/February Birthdays 2026:

Happy 3rd Birthday: Akira, Aria, Brodie B, Evelyn, Thomas

Happy 4th Birthday: Dylan, Elsie, Grace, Iyla, Rheya, Soloman, Woody

Staff Birthday: Tiffany, Mandy



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.

Boot Bags: All children are required to have a **non-plastic boot bag**, for health reasons boots with no bags will be left outside under the shelter, we are happy for you to bring in and take home each forest school session, but children with no boots will not be able to attend forest school, sorry for the inconvenience this may cause.

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Thank you for reading, and have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

The Ladybird Team

*Alyssa, Amanda (Mandy), Charlotte, Emma, Hannah, Hui (Bank staff) Jess (Bank staff)
Kadena, Lianne, Mary, Nicole, Oriana, Tiaera (Maternity Leave) Tiffany, Victoria*

Christmas Bazaar Sponsors

Sponsors	
Back in the Frame	Handmade by C&S
Cambridge Wine Merchants	Holly and Jocelyn
Country Properties	Lauren Claire hairdresser
Crystal Creations	Leigh Spary Photography
Danny's Barbers	No 14
Deacons Butchers	ORCCatering
Emi Floral Designs	Snakes and Ladders
Enid Knits	Surfin Café
Flitwick Leisure Centre	The Social Workshop
Flitwick Leisure Centre	Thermomix
	Wendy's Christmas Crafts