

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 3 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our latest newsletter which shares info and updates regarding the Spring and Summer terms. We also give some updates from the team.

We hope you find our newsletter informative, and 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 your support over the last couple of weeks while we have been short staffed. We share details of our staffing changes below and look forward to working with the new team members next term. Have a lovely break over half-term.

Kind regards

Amanda Sanders, Pre-School Manager

Dates for your Diary

Event	Date 2026
February half-term holiday	w/c 16th February
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 23rd February
Parents Evening	Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th March
Mother's and Others Day Afternoon Tea	Saturday 7th March 11.30am-1.00pm
Open Morning for new starters only	Saturday 21st March 10am-12pm
Come and Tell a Story	Wednesday 25th March 2.15pm-2.45pm
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
May half-term holiday	w/c 26th May
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 1st June
Bingo/Chips Night	Friday 5th June 7pm start. Details to follow
Sports Day	Friday 12th June 2pm-3pm. Details to follow
Dad's Breakfast	Saturday 13th June. Details to follow
Leavers' Party	Wednesday 8th July. Details to follow
Amphill Big Tent event	Sunday 12th July. Details to follow
Last day of term	Friday 17th July
Summer Holiday Club	w/c 20 th , 27th July and 3rd August

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 3 2026

General News and Events:

Cooking activity: All cooking packs will be sent home during the last week of term, and we would like the children to share their experiences on Tapestry. The best cook will be awarded a special named wooden spoon. Please note that the cooking packs will only be given to those who were signed up for the scheme. **Good luck, young cooks!**

Half-term activities: Please see the memos on Tapestry for activities to keep your little ones entertained over half-term. Details of local half-term activities were posted on 8th Feb, and a "Trade your Trinkets" activity will get us in the mood for next term's Pirates theme. Swashbucklers, ahoy!

After Pre-School Club: From next half-term, Friday's APSC will be held in Bumblebee Room. This will allow us to do a smoother transition at home time.

Parents Evening Tuesday 3rd March & Thursday 5th March 2026: Parents evening slots have now all been booked. We look forward to seeing you there. Please remember that we ask you not to bring your children along to the meeting.

Mothers and Others Day Afternoon Tea, 7th March 11.30am - 1.00pm:

We look forward to welcoming those of you who have signed up to the setting, to celebrate the special ladies in your little ones lives.

Easter and Summer 2026 Holiday Clubs:

Holiday Club is open to children from 3 - 7 years of age. Ladybird staff run activities throughout the day, and there's time for the children to unwind with a snack in front of a movie in the afternoon. You may be able to use left-over funding to pay for your hours. We have some spaces at the Easter and Summer clubs still available. Book your spaces here:

- Easter: Monday 30th March to Thursday 2nd April, 8am - 4pm:
 - <https://forms.gle/zycRcQU5KyigF8hV8>
- Summer: (Monday 20th July - Friday 7th August, 9am - 4pm):
 - <https://forms.gle/MNxjMMfy73fjus9a6>

Polices and Plans: Please find attached the setting Climate Action Plan, which all settings now need to have in place.

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 3 2026

Fundraising Projects:

We repurposed the monies raised at the Christmas Bazaar to buy some new resources for the Pre-School. These include a sensory spinning chair, sensory colour changing table sensory resources for the table, a new fish tank and new library seating furniture. We are sure the children will enjoy these new resources. A huge thank you again for your support and generosity.

Projects:

If we are successful with our grant application, we hope that during the Easter term 2026 we will replace the rest of the pre-school fencing, gates, steps and revamp the sand pit.

During the Summer term 2026 we are hoping to erect a new Forest School signage, new outside musical station, outside wooden sensory tunnel, This will depend on funds raised during the year.

Staff news and team updates:

We say a sad farewell to Karli who has decided to leave the childcare industry. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

We welcome our new staff:

- **Kayla** will soon be Level 3 qualified, comes with lead experience and will be working on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays.
- **Elisa** is currently studying at a local school and already has lots of experience looking after children. She will be working Wednesdays and Thursdays at After Pre-School Club.

We are still looking for a part-time qualified practitioner to join our fun, busy and high-quality Pre-School. Do let us know if you know of anyone interested!

SEND:

Hi everyone, I wanted to introduce myself as the new Ladybirds SENCo. We have made some changes this term and now have a dedicated SEND team. Together with Charlotte, Hannah and Emma, I will work to support our children and their families. We are here to offer support and guidance, and will signpost you to as much help as possible in our local area. We will ensure that we build great working partnerships with parents and carers to ensure we are meeting the needs of your children. We want to continue to create a learning environment that is adaptable and beneficial to meet the

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 3 2026

needs of your children and give them the support they require to reach their full potential.

We have been using our sensory room with all the children in the setting and have recently added some fantastic new resources to the room, which will be wonderful for the children to explore and share together whilst using them to self-regulate and express their emotions in safe and calming way.

if you have any concerns regarding SEND please drop the team an email at

enquiries@ladybirdspre-school.org.uk and we will contact you for a chat

Lianne, Pre-School Lead / SENDCo.

Mindfulness and Wellbeing:

Support over the holidays:

If you or your child need help over the holidays, there is a range of different ways to access support. Please visit the links below 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 and Emma, Wellbeing Leads

Phonics sessions:

Thank you all for supporting your children with Show and Tell items this term. It has really improved their confidence, and they are very excited to stand up to share them with their friends. We have been busy this term with our phonics sessions and learning the different letter sounds, rhymes and pictures. Children are starting to recognise letters in the environment and are also becoming super name writers, with lots of practice using their name boards. They are also choosing to write during child led activities in both our inside and outside areas. We look forward to having lots of fun learning the next set of letters. I hope the children will continue to bring in the fabulous Show and Tell items matching the letter/s of the week.

Tiffany, Phonics Lead.

Forest School:

We've had a fun start to the New Year in Forest School, the children have had lots of fun exploring and have adapted well to the challenging weather! Our little explorers have enjoyed a variety of activities this term. Hopefully we will start to see more signs of spring over the coming weeks and will enjoy some drier weather! We look forward to what adventures await us after half term!

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter 3 2026

Fees and funding:

Thank you for paying your fees for Spring Term 1. Here's a reminder of the invoice dates for the rest of the school year:

2025 - 2026 Invoice dates			
Term payable	Invoice period	Invoice date w/c	Due date
Spring 2	23/02/26 - 27/03/26	23/02/2026	30 days from invoice date
Summer 1	13/04/26 - 22/05/26	20/04/2026	30 days from invoice date
Summer 2	01/06/26 - 17/07/26	01/06/2026	30 days from invoice date

Changes to fees from Summer Term:

As per our T&Cs, fees for any unfunded hours are subject to a review every April, in-line with the increases to the National Minimum Wage and the funding rate paid to us by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Changes to our unfunded hours will be communicated to you on 2nd March and will be implemented from the start of the Summer term, 13th April.

Should you ever have any questions or wish to discuss your invoice, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Victoria, Admin Manager

General Info and Updates:

March/April Birthdays 2026:

Happy 3rd Birthday: Bonnie, Brody, Lola

Happy 4th Birthday: Oscar

Staff Birthday: Alyssa, Vic, Elisa, Mary

We wish you all a lovely half-term break



Happy half-term holiday:

Mandy, Emma, Vic, Lianne, Alyssa, Charlotte, Elisa, Hannah, Hui, Kadena, Kayla, Mary, Nicole, Oriana, Tiffany.