

Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Returners and New Starters Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to your latest newsletter, where we reflect on the past term and look forward to the new school year ahead.

To the children and their families returning to us next September, thank you for working together with us so well this year in supporting your child's learning and development. Thanks also for supporting our fundraising initiatives, including the Christmas Bazaar, the Bingo and Chips night and at the Big Tent Weekend. We look forward to hearing all about our Returners' summer adventures when they return to the setting from Friday 4th September 2026.

We are also excited to see our new Ladybirds at their Home Visits in September and welcome them to the setting soon after.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Kind regards
Mandy, Pre-School Manager

Dates for your Diary

Event	Date
2026	
First Day of Term	Pre-School re-opens Friday 4th September
New Starters Staggering In	New children starting w/c 7 th , 14 th , 21st September
Last Day of Term	Friday 23rd October
October Holiday Club	w/c 26th October
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 2nd November
Settling Reports	w/c 2nd November
Ladybird Christmas Fete	Saturday 5th December 10.30am-12.30pm TBC
Christmas Tree Festival	Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December
Children's Christmas Concert	Thursday 3rd December 2.30pm (No after School Club) TBC
Last Day of Term	Friday 18th December
2027	
Pre-School re-opens	Tuesday 5th January
Race and Chips Night	Friday 5th February TBC
February half-term	w/c 15th February
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 22nd February
Come and Tell a Story	Thursday 29th February. Details to follow
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th March. Details to follow

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Mother's Day Afternoon Tea	Saturday 6th March 2026 2pm-3-15pm. Details to follow
Sponsor Bean Bag Throwing	w/c 8th -12th March. Details to follow
Open Morning for new starters	Saturday 21st March, 10am - 12pm
Easter Holidays	Friday 26th March - Monday 12th April
Easter Holiday Club	Tuesday 30th March - Friday 2nd April
Pre-School re-opens	Tuesday 13th April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May
May half-term	w/c Monday 31st May
Pre-School re-opens	Monday 7th June
Sports Day	Tuesday 8th June 2pm-3pm. (No After Pre-School Club) Details to follow
Bingo/Chips Night	Friday 11th June 7pm start. Details to follow
Dad's Breakfast	Saturday 12th June. Details to follow
Leavers Reports	w/c 5th July
Leavers Party	Wednesday 7th July. (No After Pre-School Club) TBC
Last day of term	Tuesday 20th July
	w/c 19 th , 26th July and 2nd August

Fundraising and Projects:

Ladybird is a registered charity, and monies raised from fundraising is massively important to us. We are looking for parents to form next year's Fundraising team, to help put on events for children and their families during the year and bring in much needed funds for the Pre-School. It is a great way to make friends, and you will have fun organising events for the children to enjoy. If you would like to get involved, please look out for details of our next Fundraising evening, in which we will plan the Christmas Bazaar. To get involved, please email manager@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk.

Fundraising - a thank you:

Thank you again to everyone who has helped to support our fundraising activities this year. We couldn't have done it without all your help - from selling raffle tickets at the Christmas Bazaar, donating prizes, buying ice lollies or all the goodies on sale at the Big Tent Weekend. Last weekend at the Big Tent Weekend, we raised a terrific £308.83. This money will be used to buy new resources for children to play with.

Fundraising projects:

For the 2026 - 2027 school year, we will be raising funds for the following projects:

- New flooring for the Caterpillar room
- Triple Glaze windows and doors (To help reduce our carbon emissions by 2030).

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Selling raffle tickets for the Christmas Bazaar gives us boost to monies raised for the Christmas bazaar and next term, we will send home raffle tickets for you to sell to friends and family. There will be a prize for the parent/carer who sells the most tickets.

Other ways to support us:

Please consider these other ways to support us throughout the year:

- *Easyfundraising*: You can support Ladybird Pre-School while shopping online! Sign up now: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/ladybird-forest-pre-school/
- *Stikins*: When labelling your child's Pre-School clothes, use Stikins and quote 36232 to raise commission for the Pre-School: <https://www.stikins.co.uk>.

Projects:

During the Summer we are decorating the Caterpillar room. Bumblebee Room will have some new furniture. The final set of rainbow strips to go up outside, to protect our outside resources from the weather elements.

General Info

Articles of Association:

We need your help! We'd like to update the Pre-School's "rule book" or "Articles of Association", but in order to do this, we need 75% of our members (i.e. you!) to vote through the changes. To vote in the changes, kindly complete the short form here: <https://forms.gle/gjBNC1J3KLaZwfqo8> or drop an email to admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk confirming you vote in the changes. For details about the proposed changes, please see the Articles document attached with this newsletter.

Want to join the Board of Directors?

At this year's AGM our new Board of Directors was voted in, as per the attached minutes, but we are looking for an extra volunteer to join the team. Could it be you?! The role involves ensuring that the Pre-School is well run and meets its legal and financial obligations, and can fit around your other family and work commitments. Please contact admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk, if you are interested in finding out more. Thank you!

Summer Holiday Club

There are still some places at our Summer Holiday Club, open to children aged 3 - 7 years, w/c 20th July, 27th July and 3rd August. Our team run activities and games throughout the day, and in the afternoon, children can unwind in front of a film with their friends. For more info, see here: <https://ladybirdpre-school.org.uk/holiday-club/>

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To book your space, email admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk, or phone the office to enquire about availability.

Staff Updates:

Children's Wellbeing & PANCo:

We are so proud of our little Ladybirds this year and how much they've grown. They have all mastered our quiet wellbeing time at the end of the day and love taking part in our active wellbeing sessions before lunch. All the children have begun to be able to identify healthy and unhealthy foods and the effects these have on our bodies. They have a great understanding of exercise and oral health too. Well done, Ladybirds! We look forward to teaching our new friends these important skills next team.

Your Wellbeing:

We would like to share contacts and numbers for you to use if needed. Please be aware that Ladybirds is a safe space for all and we are here to support families if needed.

- 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, Well-being Lead

Phonics

Well done for really embracing the Essential Letters and Sounds phonics programme. You've remembered the sounds, pictures and rhymes to form the different letters. Thank you for the fabulous and out of the box Show and Tell items. We can't wait to continue our learnings with our new friends in September.

Tiffany, Phonics Lead

Forest School

Mud pies, puddles and potions have been the recipe of fun this term at Forest School. We have enjoyed making nature butterflies, mud pizzas and working out how to make the water pump work. Come rain or shine, we love being outside. I hope you have lots of fun outdoors over the summer, and look forward to welcoming our returners and new starters to Forest School after October half-term.

Mandy T, Forest School Teacher

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Fees and funding:

Thanks for returning your Parent and Carer Agreement forms, if you are planning to use any funding during the Autumn term with us.

As a reminder, it's really important that you have a valid 30 hour eligibility code by 31st July 2026, if you want to claim up to 30 hours per week funding for the Autumn Term.

You'll then need to keep the code validated, by reconfirming it every 3 months.

Invoices will be issued on a monthly basis, on or around the 15th of each month.

Please contact admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk if you need to discuss anything.

Victoria Grimes, Admin Manager

Other info

August/September Birthdays 2026:

- **Happy 3rd Birthday:** Evelyn C, Jack, Jude, Nathan, Maria
- **Happy 4th Birthday:** Casey-Lee, Freya, Harriet, Louis, Raith, Theo S,



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.

Facebook:

Please continue to follow the Ladybird Forest Pre-School page on Facebook. You will see photos of the Pre-School activities and recent events. Thank you!

Happy Holidays!

*Amanda (Mandy), Charlotte, Emma, Hannah, Hollee, Kayla, Lauren, Lianne, Mandy T,
Mary, Nicole, Tiffany, Vic
Bank Staff: Alyssa, Hui*