

Arlesdene Nursery School & Pre-school and

Newsletter 5

May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As May half term approaches, it reminds us that we are on countdown to the end of the year. The next half term will be extremely busy with plans for transition as children move onto their next school. We always welcome visits from schools and where possible staff will always talk to the school that your child is transferring to for a seamless transition. If you or your child may need extra support with their transition please speak to your child's key person initially.

Wishing you all a lovely week and fingers crossed that we have some sun.

Best Wishes

Claire Cobain



MaD Awards

Making a Difference

Our MaD award last month went to Stacey, our Early Years Assistant. Stacey always goes above and beyond in her role, she will offer to help anyone if they need it. She prioritises the children in everything that she does and she even takes Mabel the school dog for a walk every-day in her lunchtime.

Please remember that you can also make nominations when you feel staff have made an extra difference to you or your child.

Slips are available in either the Nursery or Pre-school office or you can email a nomination to:

mad@arlesdene.herts.sch.uk

Continue to watch this space for our MaD awards.

PS, N & R

Financial pressures

As many of you may have seen in the news, schools and early years settings across the country are currently facing increasing financial pressures. Like many others, Arlesdene Nursery School and Pre-school is working hard to continue providing high-quality care and education, despite rising costs and limited funding.

We want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to manage our budget responsibly and maintain the nurturing, resource-rich environment your children deserve. However, as part of our community, you can help in small but meaningful ways.

Can You Help With Everyday Essentials?

We use a range of simple consumable items in our daily activities – especially for sensory play, playdough and creative activities. Donations of the following items would be hugely appreciated:

- Plain flour
- Table salt
- Baby oil
- Cornflour
- Own brand cereals
- Tissues
- Baby wipes
- Pasta
- Rice
- Hand wash

Even just one or two items per family can help to reduce our weekly shopping bills. We are continuously grateful for the support that you show us.

Local police

Earlier this month two local PC's, PC Cook & PC Clarke visited Arlesdene, bringing some of their equipment and their squad car. It was so lovely to see all the children engage really positively with the police. It is essential that children grow up knowing that the police are approachable and always willing to help them and keep them safe.



Recycling

Herts County Council have now provided recycling bins for plastic, cardboard and food waste to all schools. (*HCC charge us for each collection*). We are now able to recycle all of the above in school.

We will be encouraging the children to support us with this especially at snack and lunchtimes and use this opportunity to teach the children about the importance of recycling.

PS, N & R

Gentle Reminders

Screen time

We understand we are living in a world of growing technology yet please ensure that your child has access only to TV shows and films that are appropriate for their age.

Please ensure YouTube settings are set for their correct age and if you are unsure or would like help please speak to your child's key person.

Internetmatters.org has 5 top tips

1. Set rules on the use of screens in and out of the home
2. Make play, family time and sleep a priority over screens
3. Play, watch and discover together
4. Take the lead when choosing what they see and do on screens
5. Set a good example with your own screen use

How to recognise when screen time is 'too much'

Often a sign that a child is spending too much time on screens is when they may feel anxiety or stress if they are disconnected or separated from their phone. Lack of sleep and exercise and no willingness to visit friends may be a sign they need to take a break from their device

Appropriate shoes

Now that it is getting warmer please make sure that you have applied sun cream to your child and if they stay all day, leave a named bottle here.

Please make sure your child has suitable footwear for the summer, please no open toe sandals or jelly shoes, trainers only.



Arrival times

Please remember our start times across the school, we are seeing an increasing number of children arriving late and being collected early. This is really distracting for the children, as not only are they missing crucial learning at group times which take place at the beginning and end of sessions, it is also disruptive to the other children. Please arrange early collections with the office for pre-agreed appointments only.

PS, N & R

Summer fund

If you haven't already paid the summer fund for this term it is £13 and payable for NURSERY children only. This money goes towards snack that is provided daily, creative activities and our weekly shopping.



Important dates

Monday 26th—Friday 30th May—school closed

Monday 2nd June—School reopens

Tuesday 3rd June—Duck eggs arrive

Monday 16th June—Caterpillars arrive

Monday 23rd June—Ark Farm day

Monday 30th June— Group photos

Tuesday 17th June—Parents evening for new Nursery children

Tuesday 24th June—Parents evening for new Pre-school children

Tuesday 1st July —Parents evening for new Rainbow children

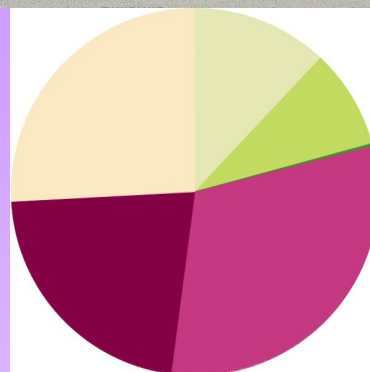
SAVE THE DATE—Monday 21st July Leavers celebrations, more details to follow.

Climate action plan

All schools are expected to have a Climate Action Plan in place by the end of 2025. We have been working with a Government funded company 'Let's go Zero' to make ours. The school have also appointed a climate ambassador and this is our Senior Early Years Practitioner—Himashi.

You may remember a while back that we conducted a travel survey with all staff and parents. This alongside other data was to determine the school's carbon footprint. See chart below

Operational area	Emissions area	t CO2e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	10.1	12%
	Electricity Usage	7.3	9%
	Waste Usage	0.1	0%
	Water Usage	0.1	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	0	0%
	Student Commutes	26.1	31%
	Staff Commutes	18.5	22%
Food & Drink	Meals	0	0%
Purchases	Spending	21.8	26%
	Uniforms	0	0%



Our biggest % is student commutes, please bear this is in mind when setting off for school each morning. As you know Blindmans Lane is an extremely busy road and where possible walking to school is always a better and safer option.