Nursery Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

Dear Nursery Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Grands Vaux Nursery! We are excited to be working with you and your child this academic year. The children are already very settled and have an increasing understanding of what Nursery life is like! They are a wonderful little group of children.
This autumn term, we will be focusing on the three prime areas of learning from 'Development Matters' which is the curriculum for the Foundation Stage. These are the key areas that contribute to your child feeling safe, secure and ready to learn.
Every child is unique and has different interests and needs. We ensure that we provide rich learning opportunities through play and playful teaching.
In the Early Years, our teaching ethos is completely child-centred; we do not set out to teach any specific topic but are led by the children's interests and stories. We find that when the children are more engaged and their interests are tapped into, they are more likely to open themselves up to a variety of learning opportunities.

Our Morning Routine
Thank you for your continued support in the mornings in helping the children become more familiar with their new class routine. The children will need to hang their coats up and place their lunch boxes and water bottles in the correct trays. Once in the classroom, they are encouraged to check in using our zones of regulations display and move their photos on the 'Self Registration' board. The children will then be free to choose their preferred activity until the register is called and the wake and shake routine starts.

Here is an overview of our key focuses for the term:

Personal, Emotional and Social Development – The important focus for us this half term is making sure that all the children are settled, happy and feel safe. We will be learning all about the 'Zones of Regulation'. The children will be learning that they have a range of emotions. They will start to find out how their behaviour affects them and those around them. They will become aware of the tools they can use to help self-regulation.

Communication and Language – Ensuring children have many opportunities to develop their Speech and Language skills in Nursery is key to children's development and learning. We will look at many different topics and learn the key vocabulary related. We will also start a programme called 'WellComm'. This identifies specific areas that children need support within their language and communication.

Physical Development – Physical development is an important part of learning in Nursery. Through a variety of fun indoor and outdoor activities, children will develop their coordination, balance and confidence by running, jumping, climbing and exploring different movements. We will also provide opportunities to strengthen fine motor skills through activities such as playdough, threading, building and mark-making, helping to prepare children for early writing.
Our P.E. sessions take place on Wednesdays. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing comfortable clothing and suitable footwear that allows them to move freely and participate safely in all activities.

Literacy – We will focus on some 'core texts' so that children become familiar with the stories. They will then be able to re-tell the stories independently. We will begin Phase 1 of our 'Essential Letters and Sounds' programme which develops key skills in readiness for reading and writing.
The children will be actively encouraged to look at books independently and we will share stories in whole class time, small groups and one to one. We will have story telling areas where the children can re-tell the story from the focus text of the week.

Mathematics – We will begin to develop an awareness of numbers through songs and games. We will start to learn how so subitise and use the maths resources to develop number sense. We will be developing awareness of shape and encouraging children to talk about the shapes they can see in the environment.
If you would like to find out more about subitising, I can recommend following Karen Wilding on YouTube (please note this is for adults, not children).
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF7b31eemNHalOm6UIG6eiQ

Understanding the World – This area is mainly led by the children and their interests. There has already been a keen interest in animals, construction, cars and babies. The children will also be introduced to Beebots so they can begin to explore programming.

Expressive Arts and Design – Our role play area will always include a home corner, as this is where children often feel most comfortable and confident. Throughout the year, we will enhance and adapt our role play provision to reflect the children's interests, as well as significant festivals, celebrations, and events from around the world. We will be learning a wide range of songs and rhymes and will have plenty of opportunities to dance, move creatively, and invent our own routines. We are also delighted that our school Art Lead will deliver dedicated art sessions throughout the year, providing fun, inspiring, and highly creative opportunities for the children to develop their artistic skills, imagination, and self-expression

Forest School – Our Forest School Day is on Friday afternoon. This means that children can wear old clothes and bring wellingtons or old shoes to wear when we go to Forest School.

Trips – Once the children are settled, we will start to go on little school trips using the school minibus. We will inform you of the date and any further information nearer the time.

Home-learning tasks – Please read at least one story a night to your child. This is a good calming activity before they go to sleep. It would also be helpful if you could teach your child to put on their socks and shoes independently. We also request that children **do not have shoelaces** as they are unable to tie them without an adult.

Lending Library – Children will be able to borrow a book each week to enjoy at home with you. Please return books on Wednesdays so that a new one can be chosen. We would also like to invite parents to join us every **Friday morning** from **8:30am** to **8:50am** for a special reading session, giving you the opportunity to share and enjoy a book with your child before the start of the school day.

Tapestry (Online Learning Journal) This year, we will be moving from Seesaw to Tapestry, our new online learning journal. Tapestry will enable us to share your child's learning experiences, achievements, and special moments with you throughout the year. Further information, including details on how to access your account, will be sent home shortly. Thank you for your patience while we set up the system. We are excited to share your child's learning journey with you through Tapestry.
Tapestry provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school. The children love seeing their photos and learning shared on the big screen, and we encourage families to contribute observations and photos from home too.

Packed Lunches and Snacks – Please provide your child with a healthy, balanced packed lunch to help them stay focused and engaged throughout the day.
We ask families for a contribution towards the daily snack provision, which includes a range of healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetables, crackers, cheese, pasta, eggs, pancakes, and toast. Many of these snacks are prepared with the children, helping to develop their independence and life skills. Parents who prefer not to contribute are welcome to provide their child with a healthy snack from home each day.

Clothing – Please make sure that your child is wearing appropriate clothing that will enable them to run and climb. It will get dirty, so please ensure they do not wear their favourite outfits!
Can you please ensure that your child has enough spare clothes to change into in case of any accidents.

Name labels –Please, please, please <u>make sure everything has a name label</u>. This includes water bottles, spare clothes, pots, coats, shoes and bags.

Do You Have Any Donations to Spare? We are always grateful for donations that help enrich our learning environment. If you have any unwanted items such as used birthday cards, wrapping paper, ribbon, envelopes, junk modelling materials, spare clothes, dressing-up costumes, baby dolls, baby bottles, or dolls' clothes, we would be delighted to give them a new purpose in our classroom. Any contributions, big or small, are very much appreciated.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Together, let's make this term a season of growth, discovery, and endless possibilities. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us, before or after school or email me at m.hida@grandsvaux.sch.je

Kind Regards,

Mrs Hida
EYFS Teacher & Lead