

Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School

Spring 2025 Newsletter



FREE Full and Part Time Places

Spread the word to friends and family, we have **FREE Full and Part Time Places** available for September for

All children 9 months and over

You can pick up a registration form from the front office or call 0121 675 3065 for more information.

Exciting New Projects



We have registered to take part in the Eco School Early Years programme.

Eco Schools have been going for 31 years so far and it is the nation's largest environmental school programme. Last year, 2300 eco schools were awarded green flags and 600 of these were nursery settings. Eco Schools is a global programme with around 100 countries around the world taking part. In September 2024, Eco Schools Early Years was launched which is a more bespoke programme for early years settings and youngest learners.

We have lots of exciting things planned with the children as we complete the 7 steps which make up the Eco Schools Early Years programme. We are hoping to be awarded a green flag at the end of the academic year.

We will keep you updated with the actions we are taking and the activities and experiences children are engaging in through Tapestry and our social media.

Learning Outside the Classroom:

We already have a strong commitment to outdoor learning which children have access to every day. We want to enhance this further by planning trips within the local community for the children and family trips further afield during the academic year.

Learning outside the classroom also includes visitors coming in to nursery to enhance children's knowledge and understanding. In the coming weeks, we have a nurse coming to engage in

hospital role play with the children and staff. We are also hoping the local fire brigade will visit us. Children will have the opportunity to explore the fire engine and to understand more about the role of a fire fighter in the community.

We will keep you updated on experiences and events for you and your children to take part in with us.

myHappymind:

We are continuing to use myHappymind resources with the children and can see that it is having a positive impact on them. myHappymind is an award winning digital mental wellness program for schools and nurseries, families and organisations. It teaches preventative habits that support mental health, resilience and self-esteem. All the concepts that are taught are based on science and research and grounded in neuroscience and positive psychology.

myHappymind is operating in over 1000 schools across the UK.

Have you downloaded the parent app so that you can use the same resources as us at home?

If you haven't, click on the link below and follow the instructions

[M:\myHappymind\Letter for parents.docx](#)

We have submitted evidence for our bronze accreditation based on the impact this program is having on the children so far.

Communication Friendly School Award:

A Communication Friendly Schools Award recognises educational settings that implement whole-school strategies to develop staff skills and embed practices that support all children's speech, language, and communication (SLC) development

Shenley Fields are working with LL&SS (Language, Learning and Strategic Support Team) and the NHS Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) Service to develop our provision to ensure that we continue to offer the best environment for developing communication skills.

Staff have already completed a questionnaire and Leanne (LL&SS Teacher) and Vicky (SaLT) will be conducting an environment audit this term. The findings of these sessions will form bespoke Speech and Language training for all the practitioners during our training day on 25th March

Dates for Your Diary

ICT Workshops:

We are offering ICT workshops on Tuesday 3rd February and Thursday 5th February. These will provide opportunities for you to engage with resources and activities your children enjoy at nursery. We will also be sharing up to date e-safety information to help you keep your child safe online. Please sign up for a space at reception.

February Half Term:

We are closed for half term from Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February. Holiday club is available. Booking forms are available from reception. Places are offered on a first come first served basis.

Parent/Key Person Consultations:

We offer every family the opportunity to have a booked appointment with their child's key person each term. These meetings provide the opportunity to share how your child has settled, their interests, development and anything else you would like to discuss. Our consultation dates for this term are as follows:

Raindrops (2-3's): week beginning 23.02.2026

Sunbeams (3-4's): week beginning 02.03.2026

Sunshine (0-2's): week beginning 09.03.2026

World Book Day:

We will be joining in with World Book Day on Wednesday 4th March. We will have themed activities all day linked to our core books and children's favourite stories. Children can dress up as their favourite character or in their favourite costume.

World Down Syndrome Day:



21 march World Down Syndrome Day
Come to nursery wearing your silliest socks on:

- **Friday 20th March**
- **Monday 23rd March**

Our children will be learning about how we ensure that all children have a right to be included.

Being properly included means being treated fairly and having the same opportunities as everyone else, being supported to make our own choices, and being involved at all levels.



Join our Sunflower Challenge this World Down Syndrome Day



Every year, we celebrate World Down Syndrome Day (21st March). The date represents the 21st chromosome present in people with Down Syndrome.

At Shenley Fields, we will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on Friday 20th March and Monday 23rd March.

During the week beginning 2nd March, we will be planting sunflower seeds.

Children will be taking their seed home as a gift for someone special during the week beginning 9th March.

Watch as the sunflowers grow during the countdown to World Down Syndrome Day and continue to care for your sunflower as it blooms.

We would love to see how your sunflower grows, so please add photographs to Tapestry!

Early Reading Workshops:

We will be offering early reading workshops from 9.15 – 10.15 on Monday 23rd March, Tuesday 24th March, Thursday 26th March and Friday 27th March. If you would like to attend a workshop with your child, please sign up for a space at reception.



Inset day:

We are closed to all children on Wednesday March 25th for staff training.

Easter Break:

The Easter holiday is Monday 30th March until Friday 10th April. All of our provisions are closed during these two weeks. We will be running our holiday club from Tuesday 7th April until Friday 10th April. Booking forms are available from reception. Places are offered on a first come first served basis.

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.





We are very proud to be a Gold Rights Respecting School. We were first awarded gold status in January 2021 and maintained gold at our reaccreditation in January 2024. Every year the children and practitioners at Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery school take part in the UNICEF OutRight Campaign.

OutRight is a campaign by children and young people, for children and young people.

This year, OutRight will follow a journey through which children and young people develop their understanding of their rights, international aid and why it is an important part of being a global citizen.

This year, children and young people taking part in OutRight will develop their knowledge of:

- Relevant children's rights and the UNCRC
- What international aid is and why it is important (using climate change and education as examples)
- How to use their voices on international issues that matter to them and their community, by contacting decision makers.

This term as part of the OutRight Campaign the children are learning about climate change. Recycling bins have been placed in provisions and the children have been learning about recycling household items.



CHILD SAFETY CONCERNS

The access that leads to our entrance is a private road intended for the shopkeepers, householders and garage owners. They share our concern regarding the volume of traffic using this access at busy times, which has led to a number of 'near misses' between cars and children.

Our advice is that cars are parked on the surrounding roads.

Alternatively, if you live within walking distance, leave your car at home and encourage your children to get into the habit of walking. A number of families do use the access road due to their personal circumstances with our knowledge and consent.

"We park at the shops then walk holding hands into nursery."



we like to echo



"The children are sad because the cars are parked outside nursery and it is not safe."



"Children might get hurt."

Our Curriculum and



Did you know that we use Tapestry to share lots of information with you about our curriculum and the learning opportunities and experiences on offer to your child?

This includes:

- Our planning for each area of continuous provision both indoors and outdoors.
- Observations and photos of the activities detailed in our planning in action.
- The core book we are focusing on, including the key vocabulary we will be teaching.
- The song/rhyme we are focusing on from our Shenley Rhyme Time and how these enhance our planning for phonics and maths.
- Our Makaton sign/s of the week
- Our rights respecting focus
- For children in Sunbeams (3-4's), we also include Early Years Picture News which includes home learning opportunities.

Please activate your Tapestry account and log in to have a look. You can also add photos and share information about things you have done at home together.

If you have any difficulty activating your account or logging in, please let us know and we will problem solve to enable you to access your child's Tapestry journal.

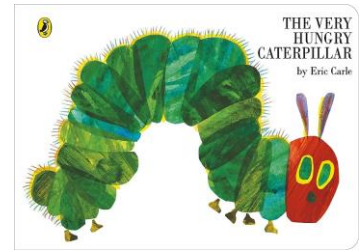
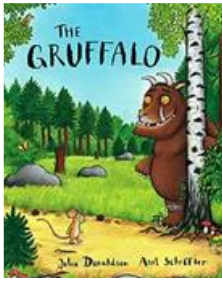
Library

Have you been to visit our library yet?

It is a lovely space to spend time with your child, with a great range of books to share and enjoy together. Every child has their own book bag to take the book they have chosen home.

Our school library will be open every day from 8am-9.30am.

You can use the library to share books with your child or just choose one to take home and enjoy together.



Safeguarding

We take safeguarding seriously and it is of the utmost importance to us.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Shenley Fields is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Under procedures laid down by the Education Authority, the Executive Head Teacher is responsible for child protection and has a legal obligation to take appropriate action where non-accidental injury or abuse of any kind is suspected. It is the duty of every adult coming into contact with the children to refer any concerns regarding a child's welfare to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who are:

David Aldworth (lead)

Louise Shepherd

Lynsey Healey

Sallyanne Bromley

Kate Bowler

Richard Sinton

Maria Mackey

If you have any concerns that a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm or you receive a disclosure, please contact our main reception as soon as possible and ask to speak to one of our DSL's listed above. Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board. The school may disclose your child's personal data to statutory bodies where we consider it necessary within the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

A copy of our Safeguarding and Child protection Policy (September 2025) is available on our website <https://shenleyfields.sch.life/page/detail/school-policies-documents-and-links>

If anything concerns or worries you, please report it to us immediately on 0121 675 3065

Mobile Phones: Please do not use your mobile phone in the building.

Attendance

We place a high priority on promoting children's attendance. If your child is unwell and not able to attend nursery, please call and let us know.

"Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results." (DfE)



Attendance Policy: One Page Summary for Families

Key messages...

Good attendance is everybody's responsibility. We all have a part to play:

Governing Body, Executive Headteacher, Attendance Champion, Office Staff, Nursery Practitioners & Parents/ Carers

Attendance culture aim: for children and parents/ carers to feel seen, heard and understood, creating a sense of belonging.

Regular and punctual school attendance is important.

We would like you to know...

Every child has the right to an Education (UNICEF Article 28)

Schools have a duty to ensure children on our roll are safe and well. When a child does not attend their allocated session, schools must know why.

HIGH LEVELS OF ATTENDANCE = IMPROVED ATTAINMENT AND OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

We do not fine parents/ carers for absences/ missed sessions as children in our nursery schools are of non-statutory school age. We help families to get used to good attendance habits in readiness for primary/ special school.

Good attendance benefits a child because:

- They can build friendships well
- They have routine and structure which supports emotional wellbeing.
- They build strong relationships with adults
- They can access their learning entitlement regularly
- They learn boundaries and social norms.
- They become better ready for school.

If you or your child are finding it difficult to attend nursery regularly, we want to work with you to provide support and reassurance.

If your child has not attended nursery, we will call you to find out why. We have a responsibility to do this.

You can help us by calling us on the first day of your child's absence.

Please Remember.....

Please can we ask that you do not bring the foods containing the following to nursery:



Nuts



Eggs

There are children at nursery who could become very poorly if they come into contact with these foods. Thank you.

Labelling your Child's Belongings - Please name your child's belongings - especially coats, bags and lunch boxes. We have lots of coats and bags that are the same.

Spare Clothes - Can you please send your child to nursery with a set of spare clothes in their bag and return any borrowed items as soon as possible.

Collection Timings:

Your child's day at nursery starts at 9am. Please make sure they are on time to enable them to make the very most of their day with us. If you arrive later than 9.10, you will need to take your child to our main reception.

Collection time is 3pm. If you have any circumstances which make this collection time difficult, then please discuss this with us.

Wednesdays are the only exception to this:

If your child's place is the beginning of the week, drop off is at 9am and collection at 12 midday.

If your child's place is at the end of the week, drop off is at 12.15 and collection at 3.15pm.

Drop off and collections outside of these times is hugely disruptive and impacts on the experiences on offer to the children.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

