



NEWS



Please ensure that you label all of your child's belongings that come into nursery inc. coats, clothes, bags, lunch boxes, water bottles. Thank you.

We provide the children with drinks of water at regular intervals and they have independent access to drinking water throughout the day. **Please note that the children do not need to bring a water bottle with them to nursery, unless they have a packed lunch. See the next page for more information about our food and drink policy.**

Applications for primary school places for September 2026 will be closing on 15th January 2025 for children that turn 4 during this academic year. If you need help to complete your application, please speak to the office who will help you. Thank you.

Time Keeping - please make sure that you arrive promptly at the correct time for your child's nursery session. This is really important to ensure children can be greeted and settled properly without disrupting learning. If you arrive late, you will be expected to wait until a staff member is available to collect your child from the door. .

Settling in

Thank you for working with us the past 7 weeks in ensuring a smooth transition into our nursery. We are delighted with how settled the children are, relishing in the experiences being offered to them.

Welcome to all of our new to centre children and families and welcome back to all of our returning children and families. If you have any queries, please speak to us as soon as matters arise.

Important dates for your diary



Children-in-Need - Friday 14th November. Come to Nursery in your PJ's.

Trip to the Zoo- Wednesday 10th December (**nursery will be open to children who are unable to go to the Zoo**)

Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 11th December

Winter Wonderland- Wednesday 17th December. School **will not** be open as usual. Please note that you will be given a time slot to come (either AM or PM).

Parents' Workshop on Healthy Eating- Monday 24th November at 9.30am

Nursery is closed from Monday 22nd December

Teacher Training Day (closed to children) - Monday 5th January

Nursery re-opens on Tuesday 6th January

Food and Drink Policy

As a nursery we are required to support you with information to help you to provide healthy meals for your child whilst onsite. To meet the Ofsted welfare requirements and The Department for Education Nutrition Guidance, we are advised to limit the amount of ultra-processed, high fat, high salt or high sugar foods as these have a detrimental impact on children's health and wellbeing. We are an allergy aware school so no nuts or products containing nuts are permitted on site. Please ensure that all packed lunches brought from home and consumed in nursery provide the child with healthy and nutritious food for growth and development. Please find at the end of the newsletter healthy lunchbox recommendations. *For a copy of our new food and drink policy please see the school website.*

SEN/D Coffee Mornings Autumn 2 2025

Tuesday 11th November - 09:00 - 11:00

Early Help SEND Support Session

Tuesday 16th December - 09:30 - 12:00

Book folding decorations



We would warmly welcome any donations of hardback books for one of these sessions. Thank you.

Healthy Eating

Workshop

Join our fun parent workshop on healthy lunches on Monday 24th November at 9.30-10.30am

This will be a practical session with free resources, lunchbox ideas and tasting sessions.

Please let our office team know if you would like to attend.

Tapestry

We use Tapestry, an online learning journal platform, to record children's learning and development through some photos and written observations. As outlined in the EYFS Statutory Framework, we spend the majority of time interacting with children rather than recording observations on an iPad and uploading onto Tapestry. Our educators build up a detailed knowledge of each child through their daily interactions—there is no requirement for us to keep written records. You are more than welcome to share photos, videos and observations yourself via this method. We will be sharing videos of the book



If you are unsure of how to upload photos and videos onto Tapestry, please see Stephanie or Amanda.



We warmly welcomed two Ofsted inspectors and our Curriculum Governor, Professor Chris Pascal, on Monday 20th October. Lynda, the Lead Inspector, was so impressed with the quality of care and education when she inspected in January that she wanted to bring along a colleague to see our work. The inspectors were once again thrilled with what they saw and commented; 'It was so wonderful to see the amazing practice taking place'. A huge well done and thank you to the team and wonderful children and families.

School photos have been booked for March. These will be for individuals and siblings. More information to follow.

Further information regarding our curriculum and how this impacts upon your child's learning and development can be found on our Nursery School Website: www.allenscn.sch.life and our social media pages.



Parents' Evening

This week it has been wonderful to see so many parents attending one of our two Parents' Evening slots. This has provided us with the opportunity to share with you how the children have settled in, how your child is progressing and next steps (including offering practical ideas you can try at home). Thank you for coming and sharing your insights of your child at home. These opportunities for us to talk are so important in us working in partnership to support your child's learning, development and well-being.

Diwali

This week we have been exploring the beautiful festival of Diwali - the Festival of Lights. The children have been making clay diyas; listening to stories inc. 'Binny's Diwali'; and partaking in Bhangra dancing. These activities have helped us to learn about light, colour, community, and the joy of celebrating together. Wishing all of our families and friends a Happy Diwali.



Remembrance Day

Week commencing 10th November, we will be exploring Remembrance Day. The children will be making poppies and listening to and discussing stories, such as Bertie's Poppy. These activities will help the children to learn about past and present events and focus on themes such as kindness, bravery and peace.



My Happy Mind



In September, we launched My Happy Mind, an NHS backed programme to teach children how to build

their resilience, self-esteem and happiness through science-backed sessions. We have focussed on 'Meet Your Brain'. After half-term we will be moving onto our next module 'Celebrate'. The children will learn all about the importance of Character Strengths (our superhero strengths); what they are and what they mean; how children can use their strengths to be their best selves and how to practice using these different strengths. More information to follow after

Winter Wonderland

We are very excited about the much-anticipated Winter Wonderland on Wednesday 17th December. You will be given a morning or an afternoon slot to accompany your children to enjoy the wonders of our winter extravaganza! More information to follow shortly.



Allens Croft Attendance Awards



High levels of attendance at nursery has a huge impact on children's learning and development and is a fundamental part of all of our children fulfilling their potential. Evidence from the DfE shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

To recognise and celebrate good attendance, each half term, we will give attendance certificates to every child who has at least 90%.

Children will be awarded their attendance award when they come back after half-term. Appointments for children with medical needs and SEND will not impact on this.



Attendance Policy: One Page Summary for Families

Allens Croft Nursery School & Shenley Fields Nursery School

Key messages...

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

Governing Body, 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.

We would love to give as many of these out as possible each half term.

SAFEGUARDING

We Take Safeguarding Seriously

Safeguarding is of the Utmost Importance to Us

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Under procedures laid down by the Education Authority, the 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 the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

- David Aldworth
- Sarah Roberts
- Claire Thorns
- Stephanie Wheatcroft
- Jason Lee
- Julie McCarthy
- Amanda Smith
- Maggie Penny

If you have any concerns that a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure, please contact main reception as soon as possible and ask to speak to a designated person named above. Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we must 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://allenscn.sch.life/page/detail/school-policies-documents-and-links>

If anything concerns you or worries you, please report it to us immediately on (0121) 675 0362

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

eSafety is constantly in the news and of growing importance to us all. You may find these websites helpful in supporting your child when using the internet.

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Please also see our Internet Safety Leaflet: [Allens Croft Nursery School - Letters](#)

MOBILE PHONES

Our e-Safety policy stipulates that mobile phones are not allowed in nursery, this includes staff, visitors and parents. **Please do not to use your phone in the building.**

Green Foods = Ok all of the time	Amber Foods = Occasional	Red Foods = Never, please do not have these in your Lunchbox
<p>Fruit and Vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetable Sticks Salad (e.g. Lettuce, tomato, cucumber,) Fresh Fruit (whole, slices, fruit salad) Dried Fruit (not include processed fruit snacks) Tinned Fruit in juice <p>Carbohydrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bread Other breads - Pitta, Bagel, English Muffin, Chapatti, Roti, Tortilla Wrap Homemade pasta (e.g. pasta salad, leftover pasta) Homemade rice Homemade cous cous salad Plain Crackers, plain crispbreads, plain rice cakes <p>Protein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold Cooked Meat - plain, unprocessed Tinned Fish Egg Houmous Bean Salad <p>Dairy and dairy alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese, cheese spread, cream cheese Plain unsweetened yoghurt or fromage frais 	<p>Limit to no more than once a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed meats e.g ham, salami <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Remember an Ice Pack!</p> </div> <p>Ideas for Sandwich/ Wrap Fillings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuna and sweetcorn / cucumber Mixed bean and salad Hummus, grated cheese and tomato Egg and cucumber Tikka Chicken and salad <p>Drinks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain tap water Plain milk 	<p>Savoury Foods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chips / Fries Hot or Cold Takeaway Food Crisps (including mini cheddars, baked crisps & vegetable crisps) Instant/ flavoured rice/pasta/noodles/cous cous Pastries and Pasties - Cheese and onion slice, Sausage Roll, Samosa etc Pizza slice – takeaway or shop bought Dairylea Lunchables Dairylea Dunkers <p>Sweet Foods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chocolate Bars Chocolate spread Jam Flavoured yoghurts and mousse Sweets All biscuits and cereal bars Cakes Processed fruit snacks (including fruit winders, fruit bars) Jelly pots/ fruit pots in syrup/ sweetened rice Pudding

SEND-FRIENDLY BONFIRE PARTY

SUN 26 OCT

5.30-8pm

Cash & card bar
Indoor sensory Glow in the Dark Party

Available to purchase:

- Soup, Sausages, Samosas & Snacks
- Sparklers
- Toasted marshmallows
- Stay dry apple bobbing
- Glow sticks

Coronation Road Play Centre,
Coronation Road/Dawlish Road
Selly Oak, B29 7DE

ADVANCE TICKET PRICES

£6 child (2-16)
£5 adult
£18 family (2 adults, 2 children)
£2 per extra child (age 2+) on family ticket

This is a firework-free event.

Pre-book to avoid disappointment. Limited to 150 people. Tickets on door if still available.

TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/PARKS-FOR-PLAY/



SEN/D Coffee Morning

(For parents/carers of children with special educational needs)



Please join us on Thursday 15th January at 9.30-12.00 at Allens Croft Nursery School. Come for a Coffee and a friendly chat with other parents.



Anna, a Specialist Teacher with the Communication and Autism Team (CAT) and Sarah a Highly Specialist SEND Occupational therapist (OT) will be here to answer your questions.

The Communication and Autism Team (CAT) are an educational advisory service who advise staff in maintained nursery and school settings regarding how to build their autism knowledge and work strategically with settings to embed good autism practice. CAT work with settings to ensure children and young people have full access to their educational experience. Every mainstream school and academy has a Communication and Autism Team member assigned to the setting.

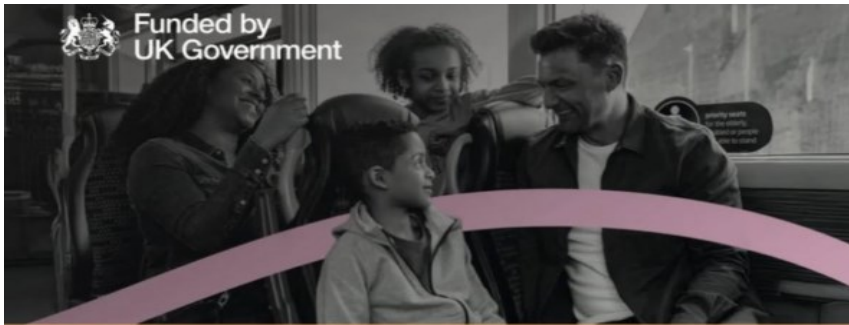
A Paediatric Occupational therapist can suggest alternative ways of carrying out activities, provide advice on learning new approaches and help children and young people develop their independence skills within activities of daily living. Examples of Activities of Daily Living (ADLs):
Self-Care: washing, dressing, feeding/eating, toileting, sleep.
Productivity: school based activities; writing, scissor use.
Leisure: participating in out of school groups, play based skills.

Any queries please contact Ann or Sarah on 0121 675 0362

Please note this group is for parents /carers only.



Funded by UK Government



FREE bus travel for parents this October half term

All day, unlimited travel from 27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy unlimited free bus travel across the West Midlands during these dates.

How to claim

Applications are open from Monday 6 October until Wednesday 15 October. Just scan the QR code (or visit tfwm.org.uk/october) to apply!

Once applications close, we'll email you with instructions on how to redeem your free travel through your Swift account.



You're Bussing It West Midlands Bus

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2026

ARE OPEN!

It's important you apply for your child's reception class school place online before the **15 January 2026**.

Late applications are less likely to be offered a place at any of your preferred schools.



For more information, scan the QR code

Birmingham City Council

What's ON This October Half Term

GBNFC Children's Centre & Selly Oak Family Hub

Monday 27th October
Baby Boo- Baby Group
10.00am- 11.30am
Birth- 12 months
The Chinnbrook Centre,
B13 0ET

Tuesday 28th October
Autumn Crafts
10.00am- 11.30am
Birth- under 5 years
Sense Touchbase Pears,
B29 6NA

Wednesday 29th October
Language & Learn
10.00am-11.30am
Birth- under 5 years
St Bede Church, B14 6NQ

Monday 27th October
Story & Crafts
10.00am- 11.30am
Birth- under 5 years
Sense Touchbase Pears,
B29 6NA

All groups are book on groups please call us to book on 0121 464 4189

Wednesday 29th October
Autumn Crafts
1.00pm-2.30pm
Birth- under 5 years
St Bede Church,
B14 6NQ

Monday 27th October
Musical Babies
1.00pm-2.00pm
Birth- 12 months
Selly Oak Methodist Church, B29 6HT

Tuesday 28th October
Story & Crafts
2.15pm-3.15pm
Birth- under 5 years
Druids Heath Library,
B145NJ

Friday 31st October
Autumn Crafts
10.00am-11.30am
Birth- under 5 years
The Chinnbrook Centre,
B13 0ET

