ALLENS CROFT
NURSERY SCHOOL

NEWS

Issue#2 October 2026

As we embrace the beautiful Autumn season, the children have been enjoying wonderful opportunities for hands-on learning, and we have been making the most of the natural resources and seasonal changes. They have been placing and arranging with colourful Autumn objects; and have been observing and talking about the changes in the weather, trees and environment.

As we move further into the final months of the calendar year and the colder days begin to arrive, we have lots of exciting learning opportunities and experiences planned for the children based on their interests, our stories of the month, and cultural celebrations.

As we approach and enter November, the children will be learning about special celebrations and important events, including Diwali, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. Through these experiences we hope to nurture children's curiosity, creativity and understanding of the diverse world we live in.

Please continue to share your child's learning and special events via Tapestry as your child's key workers enjoy celebrating these with the children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Friendly Reminder: Being On Time

We kindly remind parents and carers of the importance of dropping off and picking up on time.

Keeping to nursery timings helps the children to settle well into their routines and supports the smooth running of the children's day.

If you are running late for any reason, please contact the nursery office as soon as possible.

Late pick up results in the following charges: £15 for every 10 minutes.

If you are later than 9.15am at drop-off, you will be asked to wait in the foyer until 9.30am. Please bear in mind though that your child will be missing their important, structured key person time, missing out on planned learning.

Key diary dates:

2.11.26 Nursery CLOSED to all children due to INSET day

4.11.26 Coffee and Connect

11.11.26 Christmas Jumper day

13.11.26 Wear PJs for Children-in-Need day

4.12.26 Coffee and Connect

9.12.26 All Things Wild trip (nursery will be open to children who are unable to go on the trip)

16.12.26 Winter Wonderland (more information to follow). School will not be open as usual. Please note that you will be given a time slot to come (either AM or PM)

Please ensure that you **label all** of your child's belongings that come into nursery, inc. coats, clothes, bags, lunchboxes, hats. Thank you. Without this it is extremely difficult to return them to you. Thank you.

If your child leaves nursery forgetting to bring something home with them, we politely request you wait until the next nursery day for it to be returned where possible. This helps staff focus on the children and the smooth running of the setting at the end of the session.

For health and safety reasons, children should not wear jewellery to nursery. Small stud earrings only are permitted.

Applying for a School Place

For those children starting school in September 2027 (your child can go to school in the September after his or her fourth birthday), visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and submit an online application from 1 October 2026 and by 15 January 2027 (the final closing date. Most schools will hold open sessions where you can talk to teachers, view the school etc. Please visit your preferred schools' websites for further details.

If you need any help with completing the application form, we are more than happy to support. Please speak to the office to arrange a slot.

Parents' Evening

You should have received a letter with two Parents' Evening dates on for the academic year. If you have not received your letter, please speak to a member of our office team, who will be happy to help.

Parents' evenings are an important opportunity for us to work together to support your child's learning and development. They allow us to share your child's progress, and share their achievements and interests through Tapestry documentation.

We believe that working in partnership with families is key to helping every child thrive, and we really value your input and involvement.

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.

SEND Coffee Mornings

Come along to our monthly SEND coffee mornings for a chat and coffee.

The focus for the upcoming sessions are:

Thursday 5th November – Play Matters

Tuesday 17th November – Designing Coasters

Tuesday 15th December – Christmas table decorations

All sessions are 9.30am – 12 Noon

We would welcome any donations of the following to support our curriculum delivery:

- Cultural objects, artefacts or special items representing your heritage, traditions or family celebrations inc. cooking equipment or utensils, traditional clothing, musical instruments, photographs and books

Also, as the colder weather arrives, we are hoping to create a 'Coat Swap Shop' to help support our nursery families.

We would be grateful for donations of good quality, clean coats that your children have grown out of but are still in good condition. These coats will then be made available for other families to take and use, helping us support one another and reduce waste.

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 (Lead)
- Sarah Roberts
- Stephanie Wheatcroft
- Amanda Smith

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 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 2026 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.**

Healthy Lunchboxes

As a Startwell School, we are committed to promoting healthy eating habits and encouraging children to make nutritious choices every day.

Packed lunches should include the following types of foods everyday:

- A minimum of 1 portion of fruit or vegetables for vitamins and minerals
- A starchy food for energy and concentration e.g. any bread, wrap, chapatti, pasta, rice, noodles, potatoes. Do not bring flavoured dried rice, pasta, and noodle products e.g., packets and pots of instant noodles, pasta, and rice.
- Meat, fish, eggs or another plant-based source of iron and protein e.g. lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus for cognitive development.
- Dairy or dairy alternative food e.g. cheese, plain unsweetened yoghurt or fromage frais, for growth of bones and teeth.
- We provide milk / water at lunchtime with their meal

We kindly remind you NOT to bring nuts or any nut-based products into Nursery due to allergies; and NO CHOCOLATE.

Please ensure tomatoes and grapes are cut in half lengthways to prevent a choking hazard.

Packed Lunch Food Ideas

Green Foods = Ok all of the time	Amber Foods = Occasional	Red Foods = Never, please do not have these in your Lunchbox
Fruit and Vegetables 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 **Carbohydrates** Bread Other breads - *Pitta, Bagel, English Muffin, Chapatti, Roti, Tortilla Wrap* Homemade pasta *(e.g. pasta salad, leftover pasta)* Homemade cous cous salad Plain Crackers, plain crispbreads, plain rice cakes **Protein** Cold Cooked Meat - *plain, unprocessed* Tinned Fish Egg Houmous Bean Salad **Dairy and dairy alternatives** Cheese, cheese spread, cream cheese Plain unsweetened yoghurt or fromage frais	**Limit to no more than once a week:** Processed meats e.g ham, salami Remember an Ice Pack! **Ideas for Sandwich/ Wrap Fillings** Tuna and sweetcorn / cucumber Mixed bean and salad Hummus, grated cheese and tomato Egg and cucumber Tikka Chicken and salad **Drinks** Plain tap water Plain milk	**Savoury Foods** 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 **Sweet Foods** 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



Baby Room Expression of Interest form

We are exploring the possibility of opening a baby room within our school nursery. Your feedback will help us to understand the demand and design a provision that meets families' needs.



February half-term Playscheme

We are excited to announce our February half-term holiday playscheme packed with fun and creativity for children to enjoy. Staffed by our team at Nursery, children can enjoy arts and crafts, messy play, music and movement, stories, outside play and themed activities.

Dates: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Further details to follow

Places are limited

Medical Tracker

A reminder that we use Medical Tracker for recording and managing children's accidents, incidents and medication use. Please ensure you check your emails regularly for notifications. If you have any questions or have any difficulty accessing the system, please speak to Amanda or Steph.

NHS Carpark

Just a reminder that only **blue badge holders can use the NHS car park (parking in the designated bays)**. In recent weeks we have seen an increase in general parents use, increasing the risk of accidents to our families and children. Please park on the side roads appropriately. Thank you for your cooperation.

MyHappyMind

With our 3-4 year old children, we use a programme called MyHappyMind to support our children's wellbeing, resilience and emotional development. At the end of each term you will be receiving a leaflet about the module completed and how to support at home. To access the materials, go to http://myhappymind.org/parent-resources and enter your name, email and authentication code – mhm170

myHappymind

Parent/carer workshops

Healthy cooking workshop	Wednesday 7th October 9.15am
Toilet training workshops	Tuesday 20th October 9.15am Thursday 7th January 9.15am Monday 19th April 9.15am
Gardening workshops	10th, 11, 13th and 14th May 9.15am
Join in a key group time	16th November 9.15am Jason and Sahlia/Munya 17th November 9.15am Maggie and Julie 19th November 9.15am Jason and Sahlia/Munya 20th November 9.15am Maggie and Julie 23rd November 9.15am Kelly and Sadiyah 24th November 9.15am Claire 26th November 9.15am Kelly and Sadiyah 27th November 9.15am Claire
Maths in every day contexts at home	Friday 15th January 9.15am
Join in a key group time	1st February 1.10pm Jason and Sahlia/Munya 2nd February 1.10pm Maggie and Julie 4th February 1.10pm Jason and Sahlia/Munya 5th February 1.10pm Maggie and Julie 8th February 1.10pm Kelly and Sadiyah 9th February 1.10pm Claire 11th February 1.10pm Kelly and Sadiyah and Claire

Little readers and writers	Thursday 11th March 9.15am
Working with clay	Tuesday 15th June 9.15am
Loose parts play	Monday 5th July 9.15am

All the above sessions will be with your child. You will need to book onto these in the school office.

Coffee and Connect (all parents invited) Wednesday 4th November 2026 9.15am

*Teacher training dates – Nursery **closed** to all children*

Monday 2nd November 2026

Friday 12th February 2027

Wednesday 3rd March 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

Bonfire Night Safety

With Bonfire Night approaching, we would like to share some important safety reminders to help you stay safe if you are enjoying the celebrations.

- Keep children well away from bonfires and supervise them closely at all times.
- Sparklers should never be given to children under 5.
- Adults handling sparklers should wear gloves and hold them at arm's length. Place them into a bucket of cold water afterwards.
- Keep pets indoors.

Wishing all of our families and friends a Happy Diwali.

Interested in becoming a Governor?

Our co-opted governor vacancies are now live on BFMNS and also our website. If you, or somebody else you may know is interested, please signpost them to

https://bfmns.sch.life – Vacancies

School Fees

All fee paying parents, please ensure you are paying your fees in advance in line with your contract.

Mobile phones and wearable technology

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers that mobile phones and wearable technology should not be used whilst on the school site.

This includes making or taking calls, sending messages, or accessing devices during pick up or drop off. We ask that all adults model this expectation for children and help us to maintain a safe environment. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

School Dinners

Just a reminder that if your child has a school dinner, please ensure you pay for these a week in advance otherwise a lunch will not be ordered. Any changes you wish to make regarding school lunches, needs to be shared with the office.

Tiny Tasters

Breakfast and After School Club

A reminder to families that our Breakfast Club (8-9am) and After-School Club (3-5pm) are available to support parents and carers with childcare around the school day. Breakfast Club provides children with a positive start to the day, with a range of breakfast options and time to socialise. Our After-School Club offers a safe, enjoyable environment where children can relax, play and take part in a variety of activities at the end of the school day. Places are available and can be booked through the school office. Please contact the office or see Amanda if you would like further information about timings, costs or how to book.

ALLENS CROFT

- NURSERY SCHOOL -

OUR ATTENDANCE VALUES ARE:
BELONGING - CONNECTEDNESS - CURIOSITY

Key messages ...

Good attendance is everybody's responsibility. We all have a part to play:
Governing Body—Head Teacher —Attendance Lead—Office Staff —Nursery Practitioners—Parents

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.
HIGH LEVELS OF ATTENDANCE = IMPROVED ATTAINMENT AND OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

Your child's attendance for Summer is:

Traffic light system of attendance:
Green = 90%
Amber = 80%
Red = 65% or below

We'd like you to know ...

Every child has a right to an education
(UNICEF Article 28)

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

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

Good attendance benefits a child because:

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

You can help us by calling us when your child is ill. If you don't call nursery, we will call you to find out why. We have a responsibility to do this.

Open Evening Event at Allens Croft Nursery School

Please accept our warm invitation to come and view our Nursery provision on:

Wednesday 25th November 2026

We are opening our doors at

3.30pm until 4.30pm

If you are looking for a place for your child please come and have a look around.
Nursery intake January 2027 and April 2027

2, 3 and 4 year old, 15 and 30 hours funded places available.
Breakfast (8-9am) and After School (3-5pm)

