



THE HALL SCHOOL NURSERY NEWSLETTER

2025-2026 Academic Year

October 2025

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From The Headteacher & Manager

Welcome to the new academic year, and our wonderful new premises.

Over the past few weeks, you will have received photos of your child enjoying their activities via the EY Log, but we are now introducing a half-termly newsletter that will take a wider view, celebrating the learning and achievements across the whole nursery - and what a fantastic first half term it has been! The children have settled beautifully into their new classes, and it has been a joy to see such wonderful examples of learning in action. From babies learning to walk in the Baby Room, to Toddlers singing new songs, to Nursery pupils mastering letter formation, every day has been a hive of activity, growth, and fun. Alongside this, we have seen social skills blossoming, sharing, turn-taking, listening, and thoughtful sitting, helping to build the foundations of confident, kind learners. We hope you enjoy the photos included in this newsletter, which capture just a snapshot of the children's enthusiasm and delight as they explore their topics.

We are thrilled to welcome our new Performing Arts teacher, Miss Joanna, who has already filled the school with energy, creativity, and music this term. She began by introducing the ukulele, teaching the children some lively new songs, before leading them in imaginative music-making activities. With fairy wands in hand, the children moved to the music, up high, down low, and side to side, bringing rhythms to life through expressive movement. Colourful sensory scarves added extra sparkle as they twirled, shook, and swirled around the room. To finish, the children explored animal sounds, using instruments to mimic and invent their own playful soundscapes.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome Matt, our football coach, who delighted the children with his football skills. Matt, a local legend at Watford Club, set up a number of ball skill activities for the children to channel their inner Ronaldo!

Learning has not just taken place on site, we have also ventured out into the local area with the children, where they explored the bakery, Waitrose and the library. These experiences supported their understanding of the world as they discovered where food comes from, talked about different jobs in the community, and practised real-life maths skills such as counting fruit or recognising prices. The library visits also inspired a love of stories and books.

For those coming to holiday club, we look forward to seeing you there. Otherwise, we wish you a restful half term and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 3rd November for another fun filled half term at The Hall School Nursery.

Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Erb



The Hall School Nursery
Guthrie Building at The London
School of Theology
Green Lane,
Northwood HA6 2UW
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Buttercup Class

We've settled wonderfully into our new Buttercup room, making friendships, exploring, investigating, and relishing many new experiences and activities every day here at The Hall. We've learnt about our special people, happiness and health, those who help us, and different modes of transport. Through these topics, we've ventured into our local area, visiting 'Fruity Fresh', the bakery, our local post office, and even our charity shop, where we've given back to our community!

Our favourite part of the day includes climbing the soft play area and enjoying the ball pit, practising baby ballet, working on our whole-body movements, and indulging in fun, messy activities like water play, painting, and creating crafts!

We also enjoy our time spent in the sensory room, exploring the new lights, sensory equipment, and various textures together!



Bluebell Class

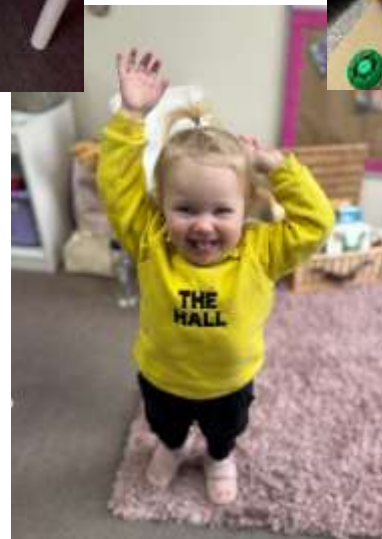
What a fantastic start to the new academic year here in Bluebell room! Everyone has settled beautifully into the routine, having already met many milestones within their learning development, with the support of some exciting topics.



We have explored themes such as 'happy me, healthy me', 'people who help us', and 'transport' where the children make real-world connections, building vocabulary, fostering curiosity and develop creativity through hands-on child-led and adult-initiated activities. In particular, we have enjoyed learning all about the colour monster, taking part in colour sorting activities and filling jars full of 'emotions', which provides visual and intuitive language for the children to understand, and be able to communicate their feelings. We have our very own set up in the classroom to have access to at all times.



We have been lucky enough to have a visit from 'Maple' the dog for our topic all about 'people who help us', as well as venturing out to our local charity shop to help us learn about the importance of voluntary work in the community. Our brand-new sensory room has now opened! Bluebell class have been enjoying some quiet time during the mornings observing the lights, floating fish and listening to the sound of the waves together, supporting their sensory development. It really has been great seeing the children engaging in so many activities this term and we look forward to another fun filled term ahead!



Daisy Class

We have had an absolutely wonderful first half term here in our Daisy Class. We've welcomed new friends to join us and shared many marvellous experiences together! One of our favourite rooms to explore is the sensory room, where we discover new sensory toys, fabrics, lights, and music! Our local outings have been a source of great joy, including trips to the post office to send our letters, walks along the high street, visits to Northwood underground station to watch the trains go by, and much more! We've thoroughly enjoyed our performing arts sessions with Miss Joanna, ballet with Miss Cronin, and Football coach Matt's visit, where we honed our football skills. Creating vegetable soup and healthy smoothies during our cooking activities has been a highlight, as well as getting creative with playdough, painting, sticking, and a variety of other engaging messy resources. We've already learned so much and we're eagerly looking forward to returning in Autumn for the next half term to continue our adventures and learning journey!



Poppy Class

We've had such a bustling half term in our Poppy room. We've already taken part in numerous activities and experiences and are eagerly looking forward to what awaits us in the next half term. We've relished many outings, including delightful story time sessions at our local library with our teachers. We've taken a bus ride around Northwood, visited Waitrose and Fruity Fresh to gather ingredients for our food-related projects, enjoyed a special treat of babyccinos at Costa, and embarked on a charming walk up the high street, observing our surroundings.

We've also loved learning about 'People who Help Us.' We became vets when Miss Heinisch brought in her dog, Maple, tried our hand at being dentists in our pretend dental surgery, and built a bus to experience being bus drivers. Additionally, we've incorporated learning about Rosa Parks as part of our Black History Month activities.





Forthcoming Topics

Autumn
Nursery Rhyme Week
Fairytales
Once Upon a time...
Fantasy & Mythical Creatures
Winter Fun

Starting School September 2026?

If your child is in Poppy Class, you need to start thinking about your choice of school from next September.

The admission process for next September starts **now** in all schools. Below are some links to Independent Schools that many of our pupils have moved on to in the past. .

<https://www.sthelens.london/admissions/welcome/>

<https://www.orleyfarm.harrow.sch.uk/admissions/4-entry/>

<https://www.habsgirls.org.uk/admissions/open-events/>

<https://www.habsboys.org.uk/admissions/open-events>

<https://www.st-johns.org.uk/open-morning1>

If you do **not** want an Independent School, but a State School, please follow this link...

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/8496/Schools-placements-and-admissions>

Harvest Festival

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the Harvest Festival this year. We have passed on your donations to our local food bank, and they expressed immense gratitude for everything received. All the children who contributed were presented with their certificates during our small harvest assembly and should now have them at home with you. Once again, thank you all for your generosity.



Hot Meals

The exciting moment has finally arrived... hot meals are now available at The Hall. Hurrah! As you're all aware of the fantastic news, we are now offering hot meals and snacks! You should have received both the menu and the order form, so if you wish to make an order, please complete and return it to us. This will commence on Monday, 3rd November.

Positive Language

Phrases that begin with 'no' and 'don't' can often be overused with younger children who are keen to explore, touch and interact with everything in easy reach. Using phrases that begin in the negative can overtime become ineffective, cause frustration, limit the conversation between adult and child, develop a negative behaviour cycle/reaction, and cause confrontation. Trying to find alternative language phrases can help encourage positive behaviour, and develop problem solving, executive function and critical thinking skills, while maintaining children's innate curiosity and drive to explore.

Positive Language Alternatives to 'No' or 'Don't'

Don't say that!	Please use kind words.
Don't touch/play with that.	Let's try doing something else. Maybe you can do that some other time. You could play with this instead. I wish we could play with that but... Thank you for keeping your hands away from that. Tell me why you'd like that? I'd like to understand.
Don't run.	Walk please. Walk please, it might be slippery. It is slippery/frosty/dry today, how shall we move around? We walk inside.
Don't get upset.	It's ok to feel sad.
No throwing.	Let's remember gentle hands. Put it on the floor please.
No snatching.	Would you like to play with that? That's his/her toy. We need to share. It's your turn next.
No, it's not time for that now.	I know you like... we can do that later.
No, you can't bring in your toys.	Your toy will be safely waiting at home for you.

Parent's Guide - Bedtime Routines

Getting a good night's sleep for your child, and ultimately yourself, is often something that parents dream of. But by settling your child into a consistent bedtime routine it can become a reality and you can even have some time to yourself to recharge.



IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Sleep is essential for our survival:

- ~ Inadequate sleep can impair brain function, but good sleep supports cognition, concentration, productivity and performance. It can help improve problem-solving skills and aid memory. Some physiological processes occur primarily while we're asleep, such as muscle growth, release of growth hormone and tissue repair.
- ~ Poor sleep can lead to poor behaviour and hyperactivity.

SLEEPING HOURS

The amount of sleep that your child needs will change as they get older. The NHS recommends that babies and children have the following approximate hours of sleep:

- ~ 3 months Daytime: four to five hours/Night time: 10 to 11 hours
- ~ 6 months Daytime: three hours/Night time: 11 hours
- ~ 9 months Daytime: two hours, 30 mins/Night time: 11 hours
- ~ 12 months Daytime: two hours, 30 mins/Night time: 11 hours
- ~ 3 years Daytime: none to 45 mins/Night time: 11 hours, 30 mins to 12 hours
- ~ 4 years Night time: 11 hours, 30 min
- ~ 5 years Night time: 11 hours



SETTING A BEDTIME

Having a set bedtime helps your child to get a good night's sleep and enables them to function. Establishing a bedtime routine for your child has many benefits:

- ~ It will signal to your child that it's time to rest and help them to fall asleep, stay asleep and wake up rested.
- ~ The familiarity is comforting and can help your child relax and ease separation anxiety.

- ~ It helps your child to learn how to transition from the busy day, soothe themselves and settle for sleep.
- ~ It can help prevent children from developing sleep problems in the future.
- ~ According to a study by University College London, children with irregular bedtimes were found to experience behavioural problems, such as emotional difficulties and hyperactivity. This was attributed to natural body rhythms being disrupted, which can cause sleep deprivation.
- ~ It can actually take the stress out of putting your child to bed and help it to become a special time for you both.



ROUTINE TIPS

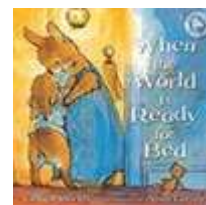
Every family is unique and has different needs, but doing the same relaxing things in the same order and at the same time each night can help to promote a good night's sleep:

- ~ When it's approaching bedtime, an hour before if possible, make the home environment as calm as possible. So turn off loud music, any TVs or other screens and avoid rough and tumble games.
- ~ Try to keep bedrooms screen-free zones. The backlighting on screens awakens the brain and can confuse the circadian rhythms, which are responsible for telling us when we need to go to sleep.
- ~ Avoid giving your child large amounts of food before bed which can disrupt their sleep.
- ~ If there is time, a warm bath – not hot – can help soothe a child and signal it's time to rest, followed by cleaning their teeth and putting on nightwear.
- ~ Ensure your child's bedroom is conducive to sleep by having it dark – which encourages your child's body to produce the sleep hormone melatonin – and at a comfortable temperature, around 18 to 24°C. Consider investing in blackout blinds or a nightlight, depending on your child's preference.
- ~ Introduce a lovely snuggly bedtime story to help your child to relax before bed. Sharing a book together promotes a bond between you and your child by giving you relaxed one-to-one time in a calm environment. It can also help your child to develop a love of books as they associate reading with a pleasant, positive experience.
- ~ Dim the lights and chat to your child about their day or what the plans are for tomorrow to help put any worries to rest and help them prepare for sleep before kissing them 'night night'.
- ~ If you've tried all these tips but are still having problems settling your child to sleep, consider seeking advice from your key person, health visitor or GP. They may refer you to a sleep expert for additional support.

Good Books for Bedtime

When the World is Ready for Bed by Gillian Shields

As the whole world gets ready for bed, so does a family of bunnies – brushing teeth, closing curtains and sharing a story.

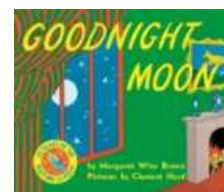


Kiss Good Night by Amy Hest and Anita Jeram

On a rainy, windy night, Mummy Bear tucks in Baby Bear, reads a story and brings hot milk. Only one thing is missing.

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd

Bunny says goodnight to familiar things, one by one – a bedtime classic that has lulled generations of children to sleep.

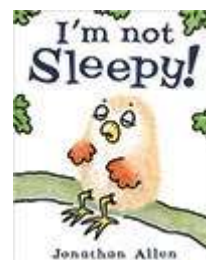


Bedtime with Ted by Sophy Henn

Ted is too busy for bed – he's cleaning his teeth with a crocodile and bathing with some penguins.

I'm not Sleepy! by Jonathan Allen

Baby Owl insists he's not tired. He's not yawning; he's just bored.



Our favourite books this half term...

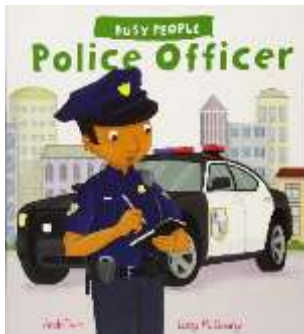


Title: All about...
Author: Felicity Brooks

This wonderful collection of books is highly valued and a favourite in our school. They are filled with beautiful illustrations, questions that provoke thought, and they encourage conversations that extend our vocabulary and learning. They also provide an opportunity for children to share their experiences. These books explore and educate us about the world around us, highlighting how we are all different and unique.

Title: The Colour Monster (Pop up version)
Author: Anna Llenas

This hugely successful book in our school and worldwide for its accessible, gentle and fun approach to talking and learning all about feelings. It's a stunning story with beautifully crafted collage artwork that represents each emotion in a unique and memorable way, and the pop-ups make this special edition the perfect gift. We use this all year round, and is always a favourite!

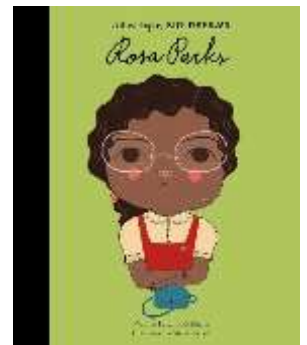


Title: Busy People series
Author: Lucy M. George

In the Busy People series, every story highlights a different character as they carry out their daily tasks, and each day brings a fresh challenge. At the end of the books, "Next Steps" are provided to encourage further discussion and support vocabulary growth. Additional details about the Busy People are shared, including the equipment they use and the colleagues who work with them. Our favourites include the police officer, the vet, the doctor, the firefighter, and the dentist. These stories wonderfully complement our "People who help us" theme.

Title: Little People, BIG DREAMS - Rosa Parks
Author: Lisbeth Kaiser

Little People, BIG DREAMS is a popular series of biographies for children, detailing the inspiring lives of remarkable individuals, ranging from designers and artists to scientists and activists. Every one of them accomplished extraordinary feats, but they all started as children with a dream. Rosa Parks' story is particularly cherished in our school, especially in our Poppy Room. By integrating this with our Black History Month and transport theme, we delve into Rosa's amazing story and her path to the freedom movement. The Little People, BIG DREAMS books make an excellent addition to your children's book collections.



Title: Our class is a family
Author: Shannon Olsen

Featuring a heartfelt message and vibrantly whimsical illustrations, "Our Class is a Family" is a book destined to foster and enhance the sense of community within a class. Children will understand that their classroom is a place where they can safely be themselves, where making mistakes is acceptable, and where it is essential to show friendship to others. As students listen to their teacher read this story aloud, they are bound to feel like they belong to a special family.

Families Magazines

You can download the latest Families Magazine by clicking here...

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/nw_london_oct



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THE NEXT HALF TERM



OCTOBER

Mon 20 th to Fri 31 st		Half Term Holiday (2 weeks) - Holiday Club available – Theme is Autumn Crafts
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NOVEMBER

Monday 3 rd		Return to school following half term
Mon 10 th – Fri 14 th		Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 11 th		Remembrance Day – Wear something red!
Monday 17 th		Odd Socks Day – Wear your odd socks to help raise awareness!
Friday 21 st		Children In need day! Wear something yellow, spotty, or Pudsey related!
Friday 21 st	8:45-9:15am	Children in Need bake sale.
Tuesday 25 th	9:15-10:15am	Parent tea & Coffee morning.

DECEMBER

Monday 1 st		Christmas post box in entrance hall – Post your Christmas cards!
Tuesday 2 nd	5-6:30pm	Christmas Carol evening
Thursday 11 th		Christmas jumper day!
Friday 12 th	10am-12pm	Christmas party day!
Friday 12 th	12pm finish.	Break up for Christmas
Mon 15 th – Fri 19 th	8 – 5pm	Holiday Club available

JANUARY 2026

Monday 5 th		Staff Training – School will be closed.
Tuesday 6 th		Children back for our Spring term.