



January 2026 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to you all!

A big thank you to you all for our lovely and generous Christmas gifts. We feel very spoilt!

Christmas Celebrations

The children had a great time at the Christmas party with lots of fun and games and Father Christmas made sure each child had a little gift.

We thoroughly enjoyed our concert in the church, and hope you all did too!

New starters

A warm welcome to the new children and their families joining us this term.



A Few Reminders

- Please ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly named, including clothes, coats, lunchboxes, shoes, wellies, and any items brought in to support key activities. This helps us greatly when getting children ready for outdoor play.
- To reduce the risk of choking, grapes, cherry tomatoes, and similar foods should be cut in half. We also ask that yoghurts are provided in pots rather than tubes (e.g. Frubes or Squashums). As we promote healthy eating, please do not include sweets or chocolate bars in packed lunches.
- If your child has been given Calpol or Calbuprofen, please do not send them to nursery until they are well enough to attend and at least 24 hours after their last dose and any fever has passed. Medication can mask symptoms, and there are currently many illnesses circulating.
- If your child has experienced sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until 48 hours after the last episode. This helps reduce the risk of infections spreading quickly among children and staff.
- We plan many exciting activities each day, and a consistent routine supports the children's wellbeing. Please arrive promptly for a 9.20am start and collect your child on time at either 1.20pm

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or 2.20pm. If you are running late, please call us to let us know. If someone else is collecting your child, please ensure they are aware of the correct collection time. Repeated late collections may result in a charge to cover additional staffing costs.

- Invoices are issued each half term and are due by the end of the first week back. A £10 administration charge will be added if reminder emails or letters are required. If fees are repeatedly late without good reason, sessions may be suspended until payment is received.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Wrap Up Warm!

During the winter months children are still encouraged to extend their play outside. Please make sure that your child has a warm waterproof coat and wellingtons in nursery every day. We cannot stress enough how important it is that everything is CLEARLY NAMED. This minimises the time staff spend trying to match clothing to children. More time can then be spent with the children and planned activity. The secret garden is very muddy at the moment and some children have been bringing in puddle suits or water proof/warm over trousers which are working well to keep clothes less muddy. If you want to bring one in for your child please do.

Please also check your child's spare clothes bag to make sure that the clothes still fit and are weather appropriate.



Medication

If you require us to administer prescribed medicine during the session, please ask for a medicine form at drop off – we are unable to administer medication without a form being completed.



2026-2027 sessions form

Don't forget to return the 2026-2027 sessions form back to us by Friday 9th January, so that we can plan availability of sessions for our existing cohort before we offer out spaces to children on our waiting list. Thank you.

Famly messages

We noticed that there is sometimes a delay in Famly messages reaching us but also we don't always have time to check the app. If you need to let us know something important during the session, for e.g. a change in the person collecting your child, please can you call us rather than message. If we don't answer, please leave a voice message as we do keep an eye on missed phone calls – thank you.

Fee and uniform payments

A reminder that we only accept BAC or Tax free credit payments for fees, uniform and other miscellaneous payments. We will not accept cash or cheque payments and we do not have cash on site to give change. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Planning on increasing or decreasing sessions?

- **Notification of Leaving**

If your child is leaving us at the end of the Spring Term (Easter) we require at least half a terms notice in writing. If this is not received then one months fees are due in lieu of notice, based on your child's current attendance. This is still applicable for children in receipt of the Nursery Funded Hours.

Please contact Sandra to advise. Thank you for your understanding.

- **Increasing sessions/starting extended sessions**

If you would like to increase your child's days or are considering adding your child to our extended sessions please send Sandra an email to check availability. If you are considering increasing your child's sessions in the summer term or Autumn term please let Sandra know so the information can be added to our waiting list.

Looking to increase your child's days?

We currently have a few spare sessions available for the rest of this academic year. Please send Sandra an email if you would like to increase your child's days either

Village Hall updates

We would like to keep parents informed of some upcoming updates to the village hall. New taps have recently been installed in both the bathrooms and the kitchen, helping to improve facilities throughout the building. The Trust is also currently investigating options for new storage heating to enhance comfort during colder months. If this work goes ahead it will take place in the February half term. In addition, extensive roof repair work is being planned to take place during the summer holidays in 2026, which will help ensure the hall remains safe and well maintained for the future.

this term or Easter, and we will let you know what we have available.

Reporting an absence from nursery

May we remind parents of the necessity to telephone the nursery and advise of any absence; this is a safeguarding requirement. Staff are on site from 9am to take calls. If you have already let us know about a holiday or other event you do not need to call in.

Existing Injury

Just a reminder that should your child have an injury prior to arriving at nursery please do let a member of staff know in the morning. This may be a fall at the weekend, a scratch from the cat, a bump on the way to nursery etc. You will need to complete a short form detailing the injury so that we are able to provide the best and any follow up care your child needs.

Uniform & Book Bags

We have uniform in stock available to purchase, current prices are:

Polo shirt: £7.50

Sweatshirt: £9.50

Red kit bags: £5.00
(replacement bag)

Red Book bag: £8.00

Clear bags: £3.00 (replacement bag)

Looking After Little Smiles

Good oral health starts early. Children under five should have their teeth brushed twice a day, once before bed and once in the morning using fluoride toothpaste. Use a smear for under-3s and a pea-sized amount for ages 3–5. Help your child brush and encourage them to spit, not rinse, so the fluoride keeps protecting their teeth.

Try to keep sugary food and drinks to mealtimes and choose milk or water between meals. Avoid putting children to bed with bottles containing anything other than water.



Children should visit the dentist as soon as their first tooth appears and NHS dental care for children is free. Regular checks help prevent problems and keep little smiles healthy.

If you have any concerns about your child's teeth, speak to your dentist or health visitor.

Follow this link or a short information video: [Hertfordshire Oral Health for young children](#)

Did you know that continued dummy use beyond around 12 months of age can begin to affect a child's developing teeth and mouth. Prolonged use may increase the risk of teeth becoming misaligned and can also influence how the jaw and speech muscles develop. For this reason, dentists often recommend gradually reducing dummy use after a child's first birthday and encouraging comfort through other soothing methods, helping to support healthy oral development as children grow.

Comments and Suggestions

We always welcome any comments and suggestions you have with regards to the nursery. We are happy to receive these in person, via the comments and suggestions box, letter box or please email us.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 5 th January	INSET DAY – nursery closed
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of the Spring Term
Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th February	Half Term
Friday 27 th March	End of Spring Term. Session ends at 12.20pm. No Lunch needed.
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter holidays
Monday 13 th April	INSET DAY – nursery closed
Tuesday 14 th April	Start of the Summer term
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	Half term
Friday 17 th July	End of the Summer Term. Session ends at 12.20pm. No Lunch needed.

All the team at Westmill Nursery