Welcome to all parents and carers!

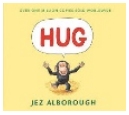
The first half of the Autumn term was busy welcoming all our families, new and old! We are so proud of how the children have settled into Nursery life and we are all really excited for the next half-term.

Saplings staff:. Senior Nursery Education Workers Danielle & Clare

Other Saplings staff: Donna, Tracie, Michelle W, Dez, Liz, Fatou, Mwna

Seedlings staff : Michelle L, Michelle W, Harley & Fatou

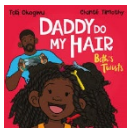






Curriculum

We started the year learning about 'routines and rituals' to help the new children settle and get everyone back into the familiar structure of the day. This ensured the children felt secure and confident in their new environment and ready to play and learn.



Last half term our topic was All About Me, learning about our families, our communities, our cultures, our bodies and celebrating all that is the same and different about ourselves.





As the weather changes, we have been learning about the different seasons and how Summer changed into Autumn. The children have really enjoyed looking for different coloured leaves and collecting conkers and sycamore seeds, helping to develop their understanding of the world, as well as watching how our beautiful trees change throughout the year. We will be learning about Winter as year ends and looking for signs such as darker and colder days, wearing hats and scarves and watching the leaves fall from all the trees.





We will be carrying on with our very successful 'Rhyme of the Week' where the children learn a different rhyme each week. We will send home these rhymes so you can include the whole family in singing and enjoying them at home.

The children will also be having regular music and movement sessions and will cook and bake some delicious food during this half term.

This half-term our topic will be Light & Dark, including a focus on Space and all the exciting festivals that take place at this time of year, such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Chanukah and Christmas.

We would like to have an additional focus on some key themes which will help the children to become confident and independent learners:



Toilet training - Toileting Parent Workshop on 9th December for further support.

Social games - supporting children with their sharing and turn-taking.

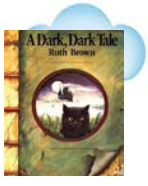
Junk modelling skills - designing, attaching materials, problem solving, creative thinking.

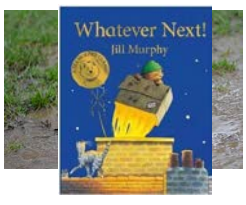
Pleas ean!) recycled materials for the children to an.



Genera rmation







Changing Clothes

We love messy play! Please provide a change of clothes for your child in case they have a toileting accident or become messy/ wet whilst playing. Every child has a blue box for their clothes. Please ensure these boxes are updated with clothes when used and label them with your child's name. Please also check the weather each day and provide your child with suitable clothing… *there is no bad weather just inappropriate clothing*!

We love to go outside whatever the weather so all children will need a coat to wear, with a hood please. If you have wellies that don't fit your children anymore, please do bring them in. We keep them with our spare wellies as they are sure to fit someone! We don't use umbrellas at Nursery.

Contact Numbers

Please ensure we have your updated contact details, such as your address, phone numbers and details for more than 2 emergency contacts. It is important for us to be able to contact you in an emergency. The emergency contacts don't have to be someone living nearby, just someone who can help us reach you if needed.



Allergy Advice

We have children in school who have severe allergies. We ask parents to help us keep all the children safe by not allowing their child to bring food into school. For birthdays, children can bring in some fruit to share with the class or a cake, providing that they contain no nuts and are clearly labelled with all ingredients. We have many children who are dairy free and/ or vegan. We greatly appreciate your support with this. Please ensure the cake's ingredients are clearly labelled



Fruit time

We would like to continue offering the children fresh fruit and vegetables each day at snack time. If you would like to and you are able, you can donate fresh fruit and vegetables. Perhaps you could pick up an extra bag of fruit that could be shared with the children when you go shopping? Please note that this is entirely optional and we would only want you to donate if you are able.

Parent workshops

We will be running parent workshops and meetings throughout the term. Please see attached information with all dates and what's on offer.
These will include:

- Toileting workshop - with Clinical Psychologist from CAMHS
- Transition meeting for children moving from Saplings to Sycamore class in January 2027
- Oral Health workshop - with local Community Dental Nurse
- Parent meetings - with your child's Key Person for their 6 week settling in meeting and 2 year review.

Attendance and punctuality

We know that good habits from an early age have a very positive impact on achievement. Regular attendance helps children to make friends and learn social skills, enjoy their learning, feel settled

and happy and get ready for school. If your child is absent from school we ask that you please call in and let us know why they are absent and when they will be returning on 0207 281 2745.

Even when you're very small, good attendance makes a big difference!



Important dates for your diary!



date	time	activity
nesday 11th November	9.30-10.30am	**Oral Health workshop for Parents/ Carers** Please come and hear how to support your child with their oral health.
Thursday 12th November	All day	**School photographer** School photo of your child (with siblings if requested).
Friday 13th November	All day	**Children in Need Day** Your child can wear anything spotty and make donations to Children in Need Charity.
Monday 16th November	All day	**Odd Socks Day** Children can wear odd socks to celebrate diversity and inclusivity.
	3.45-5.45pm	**Staff Development Session** **SCHOOL CLOSES AT 3.45pm**
Wednesday 9th December	9-10am	**Toileting workshop, transition meeting and tour of Sycamore class.** All children moving from Sapling to Sycamore class in January 2027
Thursday 10th December	All day Time tbc	**Winter Jumper Day & International Food Evening** All children can wear their festive jumpers to raise money for Save The Children Charity. We welcome all food donations to this faintly event after school.
Friday 18th December		**Last day of term for all children** **School begins again Tuesday 5th January 2027.**

Parents/ carers pick-up

Please ensure you are **on time** for picking up your child as children can become distressed when they see other parents/carers coming in but not their own. Please also do





NOT ring the door buzzer before **11.55am** as that can disrupt the children's story time. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

Buggies and Bikes

As the weather gets colder, more people begin to use buggies to bring their children into nursery. Please can you fold your buggy up to make room for all the buggies and to ensure the safety of children when they are arriving and leaving nursery? Please also can you **lock** any bikes up around the front of the school in the bike area. Buggies and bikes may be left at your own risk and we cannot be responsible for them. We love that the children are riding their bikes and scooters to nursery!

ITIPS

We are very proud to report that for the past two years we have been focusing on becoming an ITIPS (Islington Trauma Informed Practice School). We have developed a brilliant **Positive Behaviour Policy** which is on our website. There are many resources and tips in this policy which you may find useful for home too.

https://files.schudio.com/margaret-mcmillan-nursery-school/files/Policies/positive_behaviour_policy_.pdf



Book bags

We have lovely Margaret McMillan Nursery School book bags for your child to bring in each day. This enables the children to regularly choose a book to take home and read. Please bring in the book bag **daily** as children will not be able to take a book home without the bag (to keep it safe). It's also useful for the children to put their lovely work inside!

Many thanks for your continued support.

We look forward to a wonderful, exciting term ahead!