

Rachel McMillan Nursery School

Newsletter – Autumn 2 2026

2nd November 2026

Last half term flew by! The children have settled beautifully into the nursery routines, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, friendships develop and their individual personalities begin to shine through. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement throughout the term.

Forest School Fun

Forest School returns to the nursery, led by Michelle, our Forest School Leader from Shelter 3.

Forest School takes place in a small woodland area on the Nursery School site in all weather. Through practical, hands-on activities—including wildlife hunts, identifying plants and trees, whittling and sawing—children develop their skills, interests and understanding. By engaging and training children in risk-taking activities in the outdoors, children develop sophisticated skills in being able to manage safety and learn skills they may not pick up anywhere else.



IBC Books

(Inclusive Books for Children)

Inclusive Books for Children (IBC) is a UK-registered literacy charity founded in 2022. Its vision is for every child in the UK to grow up reading inclusive books, helping to nurture open-minded and inspired young readers. IBC supports schools in creating diverse, inclusive bookshelves that foster a love of reading from an early age, as early literacy is a key factor in positive life outcomes.

Through IBC's gifting scheme, we received a Book Box containing 100 books, which are now available to borrow from our library.

For more information about IBC or to browse its booklists, visit **https://www.inclusivebooksforchildren.org/browse-lists**



Stay and Plant

We would like to invite you to our 'Stay and Plant' Morning on **Wednesday 4th November** between **9:00am and 11:00am**.

The purpose of the morning is to plant some bulbs with your child so that in the Spring Term the garden will be full of beautiful blooms. It is also a great opportunity for the children to learn about plant growth. You will have the opportunity to explore the Nursery setting alongside your child.

Once the planting is completed, we would like to invite parents to gather in The Orchard Room at 10:00am for refreshments.





New Winter Menu

We believe that a healthy nutritious diet is vitally important for growing minds and bodies. Our continued strategy is to focus on well-balanced, nutritious food that children love to eat. Our meals are freshly prepared on-site. Chartwells has worked hard to produce a new menu which will begin on Monday 2nd November. This new menu will be shared with all families and is also displayed in the school office.

ParentPay Donations

In order to enhance your children's learning about food preparation and social skills, we have daily snack sessions and activities during the day where we support the children to prepare food for themselves. To enable us to continue these activities, we are asking parents for a voluntary contribution of £10 per half term to help towards the purchasing of food as well as other resources to support creativity in the environment. Please make payment through ParentPay, item name, The School Enrichment Fund.





8th November 2026

Happy Diwali to all our families and friends.

Diary Dates

Autumn 2 2026

- **4th November -** 9am 'Stay and plant'.
- **17th November** – 9:15am Maths Parent workshop.
- **20th November** – 2:30pm Maths Parent workshop. (The workshops will contain the same content, so there is no need to attend both sessions.)
- **10th December** – Christmas lunch for children who attend Nursery on a Thursday.
- **11th December -** 3:15pm – 4:45pm Winter Light Festival (after school). (More information will follow.)
- **Children's Shelter parties:** Wednesday 16th December at 2pm.
- **18th December** - 2pm Shelters close for the Christmas break. (Extended Day finishes at 5:30pm.) **Please note that Holiday Club is not running during the Christmas holiday.**

Spring 1 2027

- **Monday 4th January 2027** - Staff Inset Day and home visits for the new Nursery starters. (School closed to all children).
- **Tuesday 5th January** - All established children return to Nursery.
- **15th January 2027** - Primary School Application process ends.
- **Friday 12th February** – 3pm School finishes for half term. (Extended Day will close at 5:30pm as usual. Holiday provision will be available for those families who book in advance.)
- **Half term - Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February.**