Gainsborough Nursery School

# Our Autumn Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026



Every child known.
Every child challenged.
Every child loved.

Welcome to a New Year at Gainsborough Nursery School

What a wonderful start to the new school year we have had at GNS  It has been a real pleasure to welcome back familiar faces and, importantly, to welcome so many new children and families into our GNS community.

The first few weeks of nursery are incredibly important. Our priority has been helping every child to feel safe, secure, known and loved, while building strong, trusting relationships with their key adults. We know that children learn best when they feel happy and confident, so we have taken time to establish familiar routines, help children understand what happens throughout their nursery day and develop that all-important sense of belonging.

We are already seeing children becoming increasingly confident and independent ,learning to choose their own play, look after their belongings, pour their own drinks, tidy away, manage their coats and shoes and begin to do more for themselves. These everyday moments may seem small, but they are an important part of children's learning and development.

Autumn is also such a special time to be at nursery. Our children have been noticing the world changing around them ,collecting conkers and leaves, exploring colour and texture, noticing changes in the weather and investigating the wonderful natural treasures that autumn brings. We want to nurture that natural awe, wonder and curiosity, encouraging children to look closely, ask questions, investigate and make discoveries about the world around them.

Most importantly, we are continuing to get to know your child what makes them smile, what interests and excites them, what they can already do and what they are ready to learn next. Our commitment remains simple:

**Every child known. Every child challenged. Every child loved.**

Thank you to all of our families for helping us make such a positive start to the year. Building strong relationships between home and nursery makes such a difference, and we are looking forward to sharing a happy and exciting autumn term with you all.

**Laura**



Laura Crawford

Head of School

# Class Updates

## Green & Red Class

### Settling in

We have been establishing routines, building relationships and getting to know each other.





### Tidy up time

We are learning how to tidy away and look after our environment.

### Taking turns

We are learning how to ask for a turn and to share with our friends.





### Pouring and drinking

We have been practising how to pour a drink and drinking carefully from a cup.

### Filling and emptying

We have had lots of filling and emptying games and activities set up in the classrooms to practise and develop hand-eye coordination for pouring.

### Messy and small world play

The children are really enjoying messy play and small world play, using their imaginations and exploring different materials.



### Outdoor adventures

We have been enjoying lots of adventurous outdoor play, exploring our environment and noticing the changes around us.



# Class Updates

## Blue Class

### Settling back in

We have had a lovely start to the term, settling back in and getting used to our new staff and groups.



### Co-operative and imaginative play

The children have been enjoying lots of co-operative and imaginative play, working together and using their wonderful ideas.



### Games to develop attention and listening skills

We have been playing lots of games to develop our attention and listening skills, helping us to follow instructions and join in together.



### Exploring autumn

We have been enjoying exploring autumn, looking for autumn treasures outdoors. We have collected leaves and conkers and noticed the different colours, shapes and textures around us.



### Conker printing and rolling

We have enjoyed conker printing and rolling, exploring the different colours, shapes and textures.





# Tapestry

Tapestry is an easy-to-use and secure online learning journal that we use to help us celebrate your children's experiences, learning and development. It is a simple way to build a shared understanding about what learning looks like here at Gainsborough Nursery.

For each child who comes to Gainsborough Nursery every week is unique. They will all have made different choices, experienced their own successes and engaged in their own personal learning. However, there are always some shared experiences and so every half term these will be added as a ' What we are learning this half term' and 'what we have been learning this week posts.'

As I am sure you can all appreciate, the presence of a camera changes an Interaction between child and adult. It can act as a physical barrier between our faces and theirs - not a great way to have a conversation, develop relationships or support learning! In short, if we have an iPad in our hands we can do less to support your child's learning. In this digital age we as adults are all so used to being instantly in touch or instantly updated, but the children would rather we were fully present, ready to listen and ready to play! That is our promise to them. This means that we use tapestry as a tool for recording progress. Adults do not use tapestry to capture what your child has been doing each day. As you can imagine with over 100 children at nursery capturing each and every experience your child has would be an impossible task, it would require the adults to post on tapestry around 400 times each week per class.

At our school we value the time adults have with the children. Tapestry posts are created after school hours and often at the end of a very busy day. There will be general class updates so that parents know what we are learning about alongside other posts which will show your child achieving milestones or experiencing something for the first time.

As always ,if you have any questions about tapestry and how we use it, please see a member of the team.



## Messy Play!

We are learning all the time! Sometimes this means we will get a bit messy! We go outside whatever the weather, so we need warm clothes and coats that are ok to get dirty and wet!

The nursery uniform is designed to get messy so that favourite clothes don't get ruined! We have paint, water and other messy activities out everyday so wearing old clothes or uniform is a very good idea!!!

If you would like to bring your own wellies and waterproofs, please label them clearly with your child's name and they can be left at nursery to be used everyday!

## Little Reminders!

- ☺ Please remember to label **ALL** of your child's clothing, including coats, bags and shoes with their full name.
- ☺ Please ensure your child is wearing weather appropriate, warm clothing as it is getting colder and we do play outside for as much of the day as possible!
- ☺ If your child is toilet training, make sure they are wearing bottoms that they can pull up and down easily! Joggers are perfect instead of tights/leggings/ trousers with buttons etc.
- ☺ Can we please ask that you do not smoke anywhere in or around nursery. We are a non-smoking site.
- ☺ No dogs are allowed anywhere on nursery school grounds.
- ☺ Don't forget to let the office know by the start of the session if your child is not attending.
- ☺ Please ensure your child is collected on time at the end of their nursery ses- sion to enable us to keep to the correct staffing ratios.

## Birthdays

At GNS we celebrate birthdays by baking! If it is your child's birthday at some point that week they will make their own birthday cake to share with their friends and sing Happy Birthday.







## E-Safety

If you would like to know more about e-safety, the website below has lots of useful information about how to keep children safe online, including top tips and recommended apps.

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5

internet matters.org

# Exciting News!

## Our Nursery School is the Lead Setting for the Greater Lincolnshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub!

We are delighted to share that Gainsborough Nursery School has been designated as the **lead setting for the Greater Lincolnshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub!**

The Stronger Practice Hubs are part of a national programme, supporting early years settings to provide the very best experiences for young children.

As the lead setting, we will work in partnership with the other nursery schools in our federation and with early years settings across Greater Lincolnshire to:

**Greater Lincolnshire Early Years**
Stronger Practice Hub

- Share and develop high quality early years practice
- Offer support, training and professional learning
- Build strong networks of early years professionals
- Help more children across our region get the best start in life

The other nursery schools within our federation are also partner settings for the hub, and we look forward to working together to make a positive difference for children, families and early years professionals across Greater Lincolnshire.

## Exciting Outdoor Environment Renovation for Green and Red Classes!

**Newby Leisure**

We are thrilled to announce that our Governors have appointed **Newby Leisure** to lead the exciting renovation of our outdoor environment for our Green and Red Class children.

The project will begin in the new year and will create a beautiful outdoor playground and garden that the children deserve. The new space will provide:

- A natural, inspiring environment
- Open-ended play and forest school opportunities
- Space to explore, be curious and connect with nature
- Opportunities to develop independence, creativity and resilience



## Communication with the Nursery

If your child is unable to attend nursery due to illness or family outings etc. please call or email the office before your child's session is due to start. Our phone number is **01427811610** . Alternatively you can inform us using the Arbor app.

When there is nobody in the office, there is an answerphone to respond to telephone calls. Please leave your name and a contact number along with your message.

The office is open every day from 7.30m until 3pm, but could we please ask that where at all possible you email or telephone with any enquiries in the first instance. If you do need to speak with us in person the best time to do this is directly after drop off. We try to keep our website as up to date as possible and it has lots of information on

**www.gainsboroughnurseryschool.co.uk**

**We use two main systems here at the nursery to pass on information and communicate.**

**Tapestry** - an online journal recording all the learning and fun of your child's early years education. It helps staff to capture experiences as well as monitor development and learning. This unique journal is shared online with you so you are able to see special moments and view your child's progress.

**Arbor**- is our information system which holds all our students information. It is used amongst other things to record attendance. We also use it to send out any communications to our parents via text and emails.

TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

Arbor

## ** Applications for a Primary School Place - September 2026**

If your child was born between **1st September 2022**and **31st August 2023,** you can apply for their Primary School place from **16th November 2026**

Please also be aware that the deadline for applying for a reception place in a primary school for September 2023 is **12:00 noon** on **15th January 2026**

**Important things to remember when applying:**

- You can apply for up to **three** different schools. You must rank the schools in order of preference. The first school should be the one you would most like your child to go to.
- If you apply after the closing date you are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.
- **It is your responsibility to apply for a primary school place for your child, we do not apply for you and we are not linked to any specific schools.**

It is really important that you apply online at:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or contact the Education Team on 01522 782030.

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL

## Funding

Just a reminder that if you are claiming the 30-hour working parent funding or using Tax-Free Childcare, you will need to reconfirm your eligibility **every 3 months**.
Parents can check whether they could be eligible for a range of government childcare offers, including 15 hours free funding for 2 year old's & 30 hours free funding for 2, 3-4 year old's via the best start in life website.

BEST START IN LIFE

## Book Of The Month

Each month, we choose a special **Book of the Month** for children to really get to know and enjoy. We read the story again and again, giving children opportunities to join in with repeated words and phrases, talk about the characters and events, learn new vocabulary and retell the story in their own way. You may hear your child talking about the book at home too! Repeated reading helps children develop a real love of stories while building their language, communication, memory and early literacy skills.

## Octobers Book of the Month is :  Little Rabbit Foo Foo




## Story Sack Library

We are extremely lucky to have a story sack library.
A story sack is a bag containing a book and all of the props needed to be able to act out or retell the story. These are available to all families to borrow to take home. This can then be returned and another chosen. If you would like a story sack please see a member of the staff team who will explain how you do this.

# Safeguarding

We take the safety of our children extremely seriously at Gainsborough Nursery School.

You can find our safeguarding policy on our website. There are also links to other useful information regarding keeping children safe.

We also help children to keep themselves safe through our practical curriculum where we learn how to take care of ourselves, play co-operatively and share and learn some simple rules so we know how to stay safe.

If you are worried about your child or any other children please come and speak to us straight away or contact the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Board on 01522 782111

**Laura Crawford** - Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Laura Cook**- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Emma Smith** Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**

# Bye Bye DUMMY!

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR DUMMY



NHS advice is to aim to stop using a dummy completely by **12 months.**

Dummies can be comforting for babies, particularly when settling to sleep, but as children get older it is important to begin saying goodbye to them.

## Why is it important?

### TALKING

It can be harder for children to learn to talk with a dummy in the mouth. They need lots of opportunities to babble, copy sounds and chat to develop language.

### TEETH

Frequent use can affect how the teeth grow and may lead to a gap between the front teeth (an 'open bite').

### SPEECH SOUNDS

Children need to use their mouth freely to make different sounds, talk, sing and be understood.

## Top Tips to Say Goodbye

### 1 Start by reducing it

If stopping completely feels like a big step, begin by keeping the dummy for sleep times only. During the day, keep it out of sight.



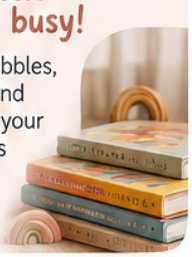
### 2 Create a new comfort routine

Replace the dummy with extra cuddles, a favourite teddy, a story, a song or another familiar bedtime comfort.



### 3 Keep little mouths busy!

Sing songs, blow bubbles, share books, chat and play together. Give your child lots of reasons to use their mouth for talking rather than sucking.



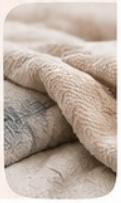
### 4 Try the Dummy Fairy

Let your child collect their dummies and leave them for the 'Dummy Fairy'. Some families swap them for a small gift, new bedtime teddy or special book.



### 5 Choose your moment – and stick with it

Once you have decided the dummy has gone, try not to give it back. Your child may ask for it at first, so offer plenty of reassurance, cuddles and distraction.



### 6 Celebrate!

Make a big fuss of how grown-up they are becoming. Praise every dummy-free bedtime, nap or day.



## The difference it can make...



Healthy teeth



**Open bite**
(associated with frequent dummy use)

## A little change can make a BIG difference

Giving up a dummy is an important step towards becoming confident and independent. Be patient, stay positive and remember that changing a well-established habit can take a little time.

# Dates for your diary

**14th October—Nursery photographer is here**

**Friday 23rd October** - Last day of Term 1



**Monday 2nd November** - First day back! Term 2

**Friday 13th November** Children In Need ( wear something with spots!)

**Tuesday 8th December**—Blue class walk to the Church (Details and timings to follow)

**Thursday 17th December**—Last day of normal sessions term 2

**Friday 18th December— Christmas Celebration day**

( normal sessions will not run on this day. Timings to follow)



**Merry Christmas!!!**

**Monday 4th January** - Whole School staff training day

**Tuesday 5th January** - Children return– first day term 3!

