SUNBEAM FAMILY SERVICES Ltd T/A

Sugar Plum Tree Nursery

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER – 2026/27

A WARM WELCOME!

Hello to all our parents and carers! As we transition into the autumn/winter season, we would like to keep you updated with regards to what we have been doing, our plans and all upcoming changes. Please take a moment to read through this newsletter to stay informed.

Nursery Fees Increase

We would just like to remind all parents and carers that our nursery fees will be increasing as of 1st January 2027.

We have made this decision due to the continued substantial rises in operational costs, including essential supplies and utilities. We are committed to delivering the highest standards in childcare provision. In order to do this, we employ qualified and experienced staff who are committed to supporting every child to reach their fullest potential. This fee increase will also enable us to continue to maintain our fantastic team of early years educators.

As always, we have made every effort to keep this increase to a minimum. Information on our updated fees are available to view on our website.

Important dates for your diary 2026/2027

Bank Holiday Closures 2026/2027	Friday 25th December 2026 Monday 28th December 2026 Friday 1st January 2027 Friday 26th March 2027 Monday 29th March 2027 Monday 3rd May 2027 Mon 31st May 2027 Monday 30th August 2027 Monday 27th December 2027 Tuesday 28th December 2027
Annual Winter Closures 2026/2027	The nursery will be closed for the Winter break from: Friday 25th December 2026 until Tuesday 5th January 2027. Please note that the nursery will be closing early on Thursday 24th December 2026 and all children must be collected by 4pm. The Nursery will reopen on Tuesday 5th January 2027.
Staff Inset Day 2027	The nursery will be closed for the below Staff Inset Days: Monday 4th January 2027 Tuesday 30th March 2027 Tuesday 1st June 2027
Summer Closures 2026	The nursery will be closed for our Annual Summer Break from: Monday 2nd August to Friday 6th August 2027

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela

Diwali Celebrations



This year, the main day of the Diwali celebrations falls on Sunday 8th November 2026. Here at the nursery during the week leading up to this, we have planned a range of exciting learning activities based on this colourful festival for the children to engage in and enjoy.

We plan to celebrate Diwali through fun storytelling and dance sessions that will introduce the children to the festival's origins and its cultural significance. The children will design colourful traditional rangoli patterns and make playdough Diya Lamps.

Healthy Teeth!

We understand the importance of healthy teeth. Good oral health keeps children free from cavities, toothache, and infection. In order to promote good oral health for the toddlers and preschool children (2 years plus), in our setting, we ask that parents/carers provide a toothbrush and toothpaste in a container labelled with their child's name. We will be supporting the children to brush their teeth after lunch and to learn about good oral hygiene.



Weekly Singing & Sports Sessions

Our Jumping Beans Singing sessions (every Tuesday) and Super Star Sports Sessions (every Wednesday) continue to be a tremendous success. The children excitedly anticipate the fun sessions each week, which combine music, movement and physical activity to improve coordination, self-confidence and social skills.



Christmas/Festive Celebrations at the Nursery

As Christmas approaches, we are excited to share in the festive spirit with some special events! Our amazing **Christmas/Festive Performances** will take place on: **Greenleaf Site Nursery** will have their performance on: **Tuesday 8th December 2026** at the William Morris Community Centre on Greenleaf Road from **5 to 6pm**. **Erskine Site Nursery** will have their performance on **Wednesday 9th December 2026** at the William Morris Community Centre on Greenleaf Road from **5 to 6pm**. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. We look forward to celebrating together and creating some wonderful new memories for everyone!

The children will also enjoy a yummy **Festive Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 9th December 2026**. The children will enjoy a delicious three-course meal together, including a starter, main, and dessert. They are also invited to wear a Christmas jumper or Festive outfit to add a little extra fun and holiday cheer.

World Space Week



Sunday 4th to **Saturday 10th October 2026** is **World Space Week**. The children will be exploring topics around space and engage in making rockets, astronauts, printing planets and creating playdough aliens.

Remembrance Day

The children will also be taking part in activities to mark **Remembrance Day** on **Wednesday 11th November 2026**. They will make poppies with a range of media, including playdough, sticking and gluing resources, their fingerprints and by potato printing.

Autumn/Winter Menu 2026

Our nursery recently introduced our Autumn/Winter menu, designed to provide warm, nutritious, and delicious meals for the colder months. The menu includes a variety of dishes crafted with seasonal ingredients to ensure balanced and wholesome nutrition for the children.

Highlights include soup, home baked bread, as well as a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. With options like chicken curry for lunch and home baked pizza for tea. We aim to cater to a wide range of tastes and dietary needs, keeping everyone happy and healthy this winter.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS



At our nursery, we will be celebrating **Black History Month and African culture throughout the whole month of October (1st to 31sh Oct)**.

The children will enjoy a variety of meaningful and engaging activities. These will include African drumming, dance sessions, interactive storytelling and other engaging learning activities based on important key figures and inventions.

The children will have the opportunity to taste different cultural foods throughout the month. All children are also invited to dress in cultural clothes to celebrate diversity and inclusion within the nursery.

Chinese New Year Activity



As Chinese New Year approaches, we are excited to celebrate this colourful and meaningful festival with the children. The celebration falls on Saturday 6th February 2027 and welcomes in the Year of the Goat. In the Chinese zodiac, the Goat symbolises peace, kindness, gentleness and creativity.

To mark the occasion, the children will take part in a range of fun activities leading up to the celebration which will include lantern decorating and interactive storytelling to explore traditional Chinese legends and customs. These hands-on experiences will help the children connect with the festival's rich symbolism while encouraging creativity and curiosity.

The children will also take part in a fun Chinese cooking activities, allowing the children to taste and learn about traditional dishes.

Upcoming Ramadan Celebrations

In February/March 2027, we will be celebrating Ramadan with a range of engaging activities to help the children learn about this special time in the Islamic calendar. To encourage understanding and inclusivity, the children will take part in storytelling sessions, Eid card-making and creative art projects featuring meaningful symbols such as moons and stars.



To extend the celebrations, the children will also mark Eid by tasting different cultural foods and wearing cultural clothes.

Coffee Afternoon

We will be hosting our next Coffee Afternoon on **Thursday 15th October 2026 from 4 to 6pm** at the William Morris Community Centre. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents from both Erskine and Greenleaf sites to come together to connect with other families, share stories and enjoy refreshments in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The afternoon will also provide an opportunity for new families to meet the team, ask questions and get to feel more at home within our nursery community.

We plan other parents/carers events like this throughout the year, such as Sport's Day, our Summer Fayre and Report Evening, and will keep you updated of when these will be happening.



Early Years Foundation Stage Updates

Updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, recently came into force on **1 September 2026**. It introduces stricter safeguarding, welfare, and operational rules for all childminders and group or school-based providers in England.

Key updates focus on:

Safer Sleep - Settings must follow rigorous sleep safety practices.

Safer Eating & Weaning - New statutory expectations cover safe eating, weaning practices, and allergy management.

Banned Dog Breeds - Childcare cannot be provided on any premises where a banned dog breed is kept or present.

Staff and Volunteer Vetting - Enhanced criminal records (DBS) checks are now mandatory for all volunteers before they start. New employees cannot begin work until their checks clear.

Allegations and Notifications - Providers must notify Ofsted about allegations of "harm" regarding anyone living or working at the premises.

Screen Use - Providers must have regard to official screen use guidance built for early years settings.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework can be accessed at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a5f8e4fb00f3323bf1a23a1/EYFS_group_and_school_based_from_September_2026.pdf

Transition Visits

Here at nursery, we recognise that all transitions, whether moving from the baby room to the toddler area, or Erskine Site to Greenleaf Site, are significant milestones for all children. During our Parents' Report Day in May/June every year, we will begin to discuss any up-and-coming transitions with parents and carers. We understand that although these transitions are exciting for the children, they can also cause them some anxiety. As a result, we plan a child-centred approach that helps to make every transition as positive and stress free as possible for the children and their families.

Our belief is that children must feel safe and secure, which is why we plan regular transition visits to their new area or site. We plan a carefully managed process designed to foster familiarity and maintain the crucial bonds that make our nursery feel like a second home. The children's key person will help to prepare them for this change through relevant stories, fun role play activities and by accompanying them on planned visits. We will keep all parents and carers informed of when the transition visits are being planned.

We will also be discussing transitions in more depth at our next Coffee Afternoon on **Thursday 15th October 2026 from 4 to 6pm** at the William Morris Community Centre. This is will give parents the opportunity to gather more information about how we prepare children for this and ask questions. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend and we look forward to seeing you there!

Dec 2025 – Jan 2027

Nursery Calendar

Normal Nursery Day	
National Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)	
Winter/New Year Break (Nursery Closed)	
Annual Summer Break (Nursery Closed)	
Staff Inset Day (Nursery Closed)	

December 2025

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January 2026

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February 2026

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April 2026

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May 2026

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June 2026

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July 2026

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August 2026

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September 2026

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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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January 2027

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Annual Summer Break - The nursery will close for our annual summer break from Monday 3rd August 2026 – Friday 7th August 2026. The children will return to nursery on Monday 10th August 2025.

Annual Winter Closures - Tue 29th Dec 2026, Wed 30th Dec 2026, Thu 31st Dec 2026

Staff Inset Days - The nursery will close for staff inset days on: Friday 2nd January 2026 Thursday 2nd April 2026, Tuesday 26th May 2026, Mon 4th January 2027

National Bank Holidays - The nursery will close for ALL national bank holidays (See next column).

Nursery Fees - Nursery fees remain payable for ALL closures.

National Bank Holidays

Thu 1st January 2026: New Year's Day
Fri 3rd April 2026: Good Friday
Mon 6th April 2026: Easter Monday
Mon 4th May 2026: Early May Bank Holiday
Mon 25th May 2026: Spring Bank Holiday
Mon 31st August 2026: Summer Bank Holiday
Fri 25th December 2026: Christmas Day
Mon 28th December 2026: Boxing Day
Fri 1st January 2027: New Year's Day

Dec 2026 – Jan 2028

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January 2028

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