

Autumn Term 2026 Newsletter



A very warm welcome back to all our children and families. This term we have many new children joining us.

We hope you all had a lovely summer and are looking forward to a fun filled autumn term with us at Little Gems

We have lots of exciting activities and learning opportunities planned over the coming weeks. Here are some important updates and reminders for the term ahead.

🐜 Stick Insects 🐜

We are very excited to be having some additional stick insects being delivered this week. Currently we only have one, named Hattie, so we think she will be pleased to have a little break. The stick insects are a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their curiosity and understanding of the world around them.

We will be encouraging the children to observe our stick insects carefully and gently, helping them to develop a sense of responsibility and respect for living things. Please let us know if you would like to borrow the stick insects. They don't need feeding, watering or cleaning. All we ask is you follow our rules, of only an adult opening the net.

📚Our book library📚

Our book library is available for children to enjoy at home.

We love encouraging a lifelong love of books and reading, and sharing stories together is an important part of our daily routine. Please encourage you child to talk about the story, look at the pictures and perhaps tell you what they think might happen next.

🍏Healthy lunch boxes🥕

We encourage healthy eating and balanced lunch boxes at Little Gems. Please try and include a variety of foods such as fruit and vegetables, sandwiches, wraps, cheese, yoghurt (not tube) or other nutritious options.

We ask that lunch boxes do not contain sweets or chocolates, and please remember we are a nut free setting.

Please also provide your child with a named water bottle each day.

Thank you for helping us encourage healthy eating habits from an early age.

⏰Our Pre-School routine⏰

Children thrive when they know what to expect, so we have a familiar routine throughout the day.

Time	Activity
9am	Arrivals and settling-in time.
9.15am	Warm up time (dance, yoga, exercise)
9.20am	Welcome time (hello, calendar, singing, news, plans of the day)
9.30am-	Free play inside and out.
9.45am	Snack bar open (2 children help prepare snack).
10.30am	Cosy cottage time (small group adult led activities)
11.30am	Tidy up time
11.45am	Carpet time (stories, music and movement, group activity, garden closed)
12pm	Lunchtime
12.30pm	Free play
12.45pm	Garden reopened.
1.20pm	Cosy cottage time (small group adult led activities)
2pm	Snack time
3.10pm	Carpet time (stories, music and movement, group activities, garden closed)
3.15-3.30pm	End of day.

Although we follow a routine, we also allow plenty of flexibility to follow the children's interests and make the most of those spontaneous learning opportunities.

Parents, please be mindful Children leaving early can be very disrupted to the children and our routine.

From 2.30pm, 2 members of staff are cleaning and tidying the setting, so it can be a challenge to spare a 3rd member of staff to answer the door, before our 3.10pm carpet time. Please inform us if you need to collect your child before 3.15pm.

👩‍🎓Our Curriculum👩‍🎓

Please look out for more details about our new curriculum.
This term we are finding out all about ourselves and our families.
If you haven't already done so, we would love a photo of your family. This can either be emailed or added on to tapestry. The photos will be printed for the children to be able to access. We also have staff family photos too. The photos are great to support the children's communication, language, personal, social, emotional and understanding of the world development. The children's favourite topic to talk about is their family. Don't forget the family pets too.

✨Important holiday dates✨

Please make a note of our upcoming holiday dates

Holiday	Date
Autumn half term	26-30 Oct 26
Christmas Holidays	start date to be confirmed, just waiting to hear back from Santa. We will return on 4th Jan 27
Spring half term	15-19 Feb 27
Easter holidays	26 March - 9 April 27
May Day bank holiday	3 May
Spring bank holiday	31 May 27
Summer half term	24 May - 4 June 27
Summer holiday	start date to be confirmed.

📃Autumn term reports📃

Before the half term, your child's keyworker will be sending home a report about your child. Parents of new children that have recently had a catch up with their child's keyworker will not be receiving a report.

📷Photographer visit📷

We are pleased to let you know that our Pre-school photographer will be visiting us on Thursday 5th November. If your child attends on a Thursday, they will have their photographer taken during the morning session. We will not have any paint, or messy play first thing, and staff are happy to support your child into getting changed after their photo. If your child doesn't attend on a Thursday, please pop in between 9.15am and 9.30am. Siblings are welcome to join if you would like photos together.

The photographer always asked for the children's shoes to be removed, so don't worry about your best shoes, but you might want your socks without the holes in! More information about photographs, ordering and arrangements will be shared with parents and carers nearer the time.

🎄Christmas arrangements🎄

Although Christmas may seem a little way off, it will soon be here!

We are beginning to make plans for our Christmas celebrations and will share more information with you shortly. We want Christmas at Pre-school to be a happy and relaxed experience for all the children, with lots of opportunities to enjoy seasonal stories, songs, crafts and festive activities.

💜Thank you💜

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working together with families makes such a positive difference to your child's experience at Little Gems

We look forward to a wonderful autumn term filled with fun, friendship, exploration and lots of learning.

Little Gems Pre-School, Hedge End