



Newsletter



2-3s Nursery January 2017

Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre, West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BY, Tel: 01306 882397/admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to what seems to be a very chilly January. The weather is not on our side at the moment; please make sure your children come well prepared to be in the outside learning environments for a long period of time.

Although Christmas seems like a long time ago, I have to thank you for the wonderful gifts and signs of appreciation that myself and the staff received. We are very grateful.

Car Park

We continue to have one or two parents who still use the car park for drop off or pick up. These spaces are for our taxis and SEN children, or those with a permit for a specific reason. Please can you also pass this message onto Grandparents or other friends/family members who might be bringing/collecting your children, as these are usually the culprits!

On Friday, when the ice/snow was bad, this was very slippery, resulting in staff cars and the taxis not being able to park. Our sincere thanks to Pets Corner for allowing our taxis and permit families to drop off in their car park to ensure the safety of the children. I also have to thank Mr Maguire (Frankie's dad) and his team of merry men, who cleared the car park and paths as well as gritting them for us. Thank you so much!

Fundraising

The Christmas Raffle was another success; it raised £286 for the Nursery and Children's Centre, thank you. FOND are currently in a position to donate approximately £2,000 to us which will enable us to buy new resources for the children. Staff recently had training on Mark Making and Early Writing on the INSET day and are keen to buy resources with the funds to support this area in our Development Plan.

Without the hard work of the FOND team and you as parents for supporting FOND, this would not be possible.

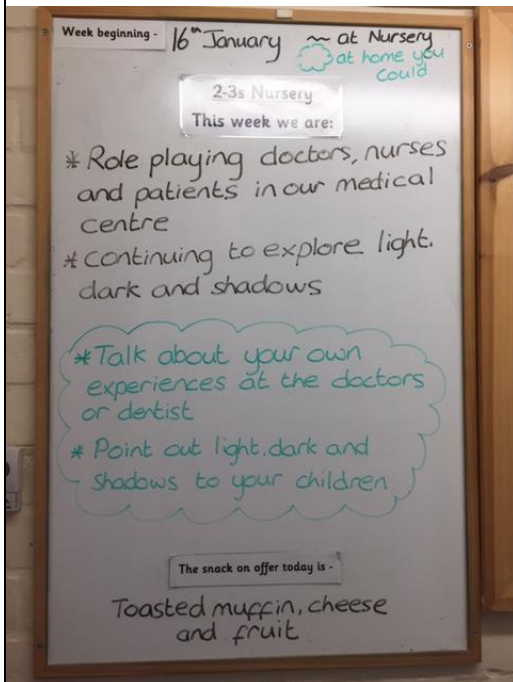
Great news - thank you to everyone for voting for us in the Aviva Community Fund last term. We were successful in our bid with 861 votes. Aviva will be donating £1,000 to us to improve our IT resources for the children!



Attendance, Admissions and Late arrivals

Applications for the Nursery intake for September 2017 closed on Sunday 15th January. We had a total of 86 applications for the 3-5s Nursery, and historically can admit on average 50 children. The Admissions Panel of the Governing Body will be meeting soon to allocate places. I have ensured that all families attending the 2-3s Nursery were added to the Admissions list for the 3-5s Nursery. All preferences for morning, afternoon, extended sessions and additional 15 hour sessions will be considered but cannot be guaranteed. The panel will be looking carefully at attendance percentages and lateness in order to allocate the extended hour priority places to families as these are limited.

Did you know, that by arriving over half an hour late each session, your child is missing almost one complete session a week!



Learning at home

Don't forget to look at the notice board outside the 2-3s Nursery to see what the children will be doing that week - the black writing tells you what is happening, and the green gives you ideas to support your child's learning at home!

Parent feedback

Thank you to all the families who completed the Induction Questionnaire in the autumn term. We really do appreciate the comments and suggestions we are given to continually improve our practice.

Overall, half of our 2-3s families completed the questionnaire. All of the responses we received were really positive:-

- All families find the information they receive prior to starting useful and informative
- Half the families who responded attended our Open Afternoon in July, however, out of those who came, all found it

a good opportunity for their child to get to know the setting.

- All families found the Home Visit a useful part of the settling in process, one family saying it was a 'critical part of the process'.
- All families found the settling in process worked well for their child - in fact, one found it 'surprisingly easy!'
- All families strongly agreed that the Parent Consultation gave them an insight into how their child has settled and was progressing at Nursery.

There were also lots of wonderful comments; such as:-

- *We feel the school and your team have made such a difference for us! Thank you. We have so much respect and appreciation for you all.*
- *Our key worker was fabulous - everyone was amazing - thank you so much*
- *This is our number 3 nursery and I have to admit, we are very impressed with the nursery and all member of the nursery included the reception, they are all very professional and show the love and care for the kids. We can't thank you enough. Keep the good work.*

One parent has asked for more opportunities to get information about their child's progress in order to support at home. The 2-3s team have discussed this already and will continue to do so. We are looking to develop our systems for sharing information with parents and how we might be able to use IT to help us do this! The team have suggested that parents talk to them at drop off time in the morning rather than pick up times if they want information, as feeding back to 24 parents at 11.45am is tricky, especially as some of the staff have other commitments within the Nursery they need to attend to.

News from a former child - I recently received an email from a parent who's child attended Dorking Nursery 10 years ago. Their child attended our Speech and Language unit and was unable to talk when they started with us. This child has now started at secondary school completely age appropriate in his language! The parent wrote 'I often think about Dorking Nursery and the staff there...and your assistance we will be eternally grateful!'

We love hearing about how our children have continued to thrive! Don't forget about us in 10 years time!

Extended sessions

Don't forget, if you would like your child to come to lunch club, just speak to Tracey or Sarah. We have some availability to offer additional sessions for your children if you are interested. They are limited, so please speak to Tracey or Sarah as soon as possible. Please note that currently Wednesday lunch club is very busy, therefore, may not be available.

You will remember I surveyed parents in the autumn term about a possible Breakfast Club. We are still very keen to do this; however, I have been unable to staff this until recently. Watch this space; I am hoping this might be on offer for parents after half term!

Thank you also to those of you who completed forms to show that they might be eligible for the new additional 15 hours free education from September 2017. This is a brand new offer from the Government and I am working hard with our Governing Body at present to consider how we can offer this best to our families within the financial constraints we already have. There are still a lot of 'unknowns' about this at the moment and I do need to stress to parents that it might be an offer that we have limited spaces for. I am aware that if eligible, parents will need to prove this by providing us with a code from the Department for Work and Pensions. As soon as I have more information about this I will let you know.

Children's Centre Courses

Don't forget, you can access our adult learning courses in our Children's Centre, either here at West Street or on our Goodwyns Road site.

Starting on Monday 23rd January for 3 consecutive Monday's is 'Exploring Communication Development', 9.30am - 11am at West Street. There is no charge for this.

On Wednesday 1st February, for 7 weeks 12.45pm - 2.45pm is 'Brush up on your Maths'. This course costs £39 (unless on income related benefits) and there is a crèche available.

To book onto any courses, just speak to Becky in the office.

We also run Post-natal and Baby Massage courses throughout the year, if you are a new parent, please enquire at the office.

Dads Week

Next week will be our Dads and Grandads Week - Tracey has sent a separate letter out about this. We are still hoping for a few more volunteers! If you are able to spare an hour to enjoy at Nursery, please let us know! Don't worry mums and grandmas, we have not left you out - there will be an opportunity for you later in the year!

Diary Dates

Please make a note of the following dates for your information:-

Monday 23rd January - Dads and Grandads Week

Monday 31st January (all week) - 2-3s Woodland Adventures - please check your child's day carefully!

Friday 10th February - break up for half term

Monday 20th February - Nursery re opens

Monday 27th February - Book Week

Tuesday 28th February - Parent Information Evening

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Friday 31st March - break up for Easter break

Tuesday 18th April - Nursery re opens

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

Headteacher (head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk)

