



Newsletter

2-3s Nursery November 2016



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

My apologies this November newsletter is getting to you half way through the month, I had every intention to get it to you on the first, so I am not sure where the time has gone.

I hope you have all received the Parentmail with information about the chimney works taking place over the next couple of weeks, starting on Monday 14th. This is vital to ensure the ongoing safety of our building. The scaffolding will be put up over the weekend and will be in place until approximately the 28th. This may make the entrance to the building more difficult to those of you it buggies and pushchairs, however, I do ask for your cooperation during this time.

I also ask those of you with parking permits to consider other alternative local parking arrangements during this period so that we can prioritise the parking bays for our taxi and the contractors vehicles.

Health and safety

While I am on the subject of Health and Safety - a few general reminders for all!

Car park - Including the next fortnight, please remember the car park is only for families with a valid permit for our car park and for our taxis. There continues to be a couple of parents who are abusing this and using our spaces or the ones at Pets Corner. Pets Corner have issued parking fines previously to our parents using the spaces to drop off their children.

Holding open gates/doors - we appreciate how respectful it is to hold doors and gates open for others, however, this does pose a health and safety risk if a child is running ahead of their parents. Please can we ask that you close all gates/doors behind you, and please do not latch open any gates. Also, can we ask you not to open the garden door if the latch is on as this means that there is not a member of staff outside at this time and as soon as they go out, they unlatch the door. Ideally, we ask that you hold your child's hand at all times when leaving the nursery.



Dogs - Following on from the last newsletter where I wrote about dogs on the premises, I thought I should let you know about one special dog who does visit us incase you get confused. The children in our SEN Centres have a weekly visit from Kevin and his dog, Dexter. Kevin works for the Mole Valley Youth Service within the Pets As Therapy (PAT) programme. Dexter has been assessed by the PAT dog organisation, as having a calm and gentle nature and so to be suitable to take part in this activity. For the child whose speech is delayed, the non-verbal communication between them and the dog is wonderful to observe. As the year progresses

the children gain confidence to give verbal commands to Dexter, to find a toy that they have hidden or fetch a ball that they throw. The relationship that builds up between the children and Dexter is a delight to observe.



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes bought cakes and gave up some time to sell cakes in our cake sale before half term. We raised a total of £140!

Have you registered your 10 votes for us yet with our Aviva Bid? We currently have 785 votes. Looking at other projects bidding for the community fund, they have over 3,000! Please vote and ask your friends and family to do so!

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-1239> .



Cast your vote!

The Dorking Nursery and Children's Centre needs your support! We've applied for an AVIVA Community Fund grant of £1000 to update our antiquated IT resources.

Most of our children understand how to use computers and mobile devices, and we find many are swiping and touching our computer screens.

Please register and vote for our project on the AVIVA website.

Every year we hold a Christmas raffle where there will be a hamper full of wonderful items donated by local businesses as lots of other wonderful prizes. This year we will hold our Christmas raffle with a twist! We would like to also collect canned goods for the local food bank. Would you be able to donate canned goods in addition to buying your raffle ticket? Tickets cost £1 a ticket.

We will have two hampers this year, one hosted at the Goodwyns Road site and one at the West Street site. Tickets go on sale Thursday, 1st December. We will draw the winners of the hampers on Friday, 16th December. They will be available for collection until end of term, 21st December. All proceeds will go directly to the Nursery and Children's Centre.

Thank you for your support!

Kathy & Emma

(FOND Representatives)

Governors

You will know from previous letters that we are looking for Parent Governors to join our Governing Body. We have had one parent, Kathy (Jack's mum in 2-3s) who has volunteered, however still need one more. Let me know if you are interested.

From the classroom

At snack time recently the children were encouraged to make independent choices about what they liked to eat with conversation focused on sweet and savoury foods. One of the children said "I like the jam but the termite is the best!" (She meant marmite) Sounds like a bush tucker trial!

Attendance

As a school run nursery, we monitor attendance very closely, particularly for those children accessing our priority full time places. We ask you to notify us each day if your child is absent, or the office will make contact with you. This is part of our Attendance and Safeguarding Policy. If children accessing our priority places are persistently absent, the Governing Body has a duty to reconsider place or even withdraw it.

Lunch club and additional sessions

Don't forget, if you would like your child to come to lunch club, just speak to Tracey or Sarah. Also, from January, 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.

If your turns 3 this term, ie before the 31st December, the costs of your child's session will be covered by the Government Free Entitlement for 3 year olds. Nicky will be sending you a form in due

course to complete so that we can claim this.

Buggy shelter

A parent recently reported that they had left milk in a feeding bottle in the cup holder of their buggy and when they came out of Nursery it was no longer there. Has anyone accidentally picked up a bottle by mistake that is not theirs? Please let us know.

Parent Evening

Have you ever wondered what your child gets up to all day at Nursery? Now is your chance to find out. We are holding a Parent Evening on Thursday 24th November, starting at 7pm. From 7-7.30pm the nursery will be open for you to look around, talk to staff and see the environment without the normal hustle and bustle.

From 7.30pm - Tracey, Joanna and Marian will share examples of the children's adventures at nursery!

Why not join us for a child free hour and a glass of wine!

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 6th December - FOND Meeting

Monday 19th or Tuesday 20th December - Christmas Sing - see your separate letter from Tracey

Wednesday 21st December - Last day of term

Thursday 22nd December - Monday 2nd January - Nursery closed for Christmas break

Tuesday 3rd January - INSET Day - Nursery closed for staff training

Wednesday 4th January - Start of term for nursery

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

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

