



# Newsletter



## 2-3s Nursery September 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



I hope by now you have all received your copy of the findings of our very recent Ofsted Inspection. Although the inspection came very early in the term, (on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the new academic year) we continue to be graded as 'OUTSTANDING'! This is the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive inspection for us with this grade! The staff all work extremely hard for your children and therefore to be recognised with this grade is truly deserved! I know you will join me in congratulating them!

A massive welcome to all our new families joining us this term! We are welcoming 26 new children into our 2-3s nursery. 6 who know us well as their older siblings came to us and 20 who are joining us for the first time. It is currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> week for some of our 2-3s children and they are all doing very well. Thank you to all the parents for working so closely with their child's key worker to settle their child. Slow and steady tends to win the race with this, and Tracey and her team have over the years, settled hundreds of children! We will continue to be settling new children for a few more weeks, so please continue to be patient.

For those of you who are new to us, please take a few moments each month to read this newsletter when it comes home to you. It will have a variety of important dates and news for you. Although this first one of the year tends to have lots of reminders for you.

We welcome a new member of staff to our team from this September. Nicky Ellis joins us as our Bursar. Nicky is responsible for all the financial aspects of her Centre, so it will be Nicky who will be contacting you with regards to invoices and payments. She can be contacted by email on [finance@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@dorking.surrey.sch.uk) or by calling the office. Nicky will also be based out in the front office from time to time, so please do say hi to her!



### Health and safety

Ensuring your child is safe at our nursery is paramount. You will have read in the inspection report how effective our safeguarding processes are, therefore it is vital that we continue to consistently apply these and we need your support to do so.

Smoking - please note all Surrey County Council buildings are non-smoking. If you need to leave the building for a cigarette when settling in your child, we ask that you completely leave the premises to do so. The path leading up to the building, the steps by the car park, the car park and the pathway alongside The Old House are all our property, therefore you are not permitted to smoke in these places.

Mobile telephones - we do not allow the use of mobile phones anywhere in the centre building. This includes the entrance and corridors when waiting to collect your children. This is part of our safeguarding policy to protect ALL children. I ask Becky and Sarah in the office not to allow any parents, carers or visitors to enter the building if on their telephones. Please therefore, do not be offended if they ask you to put it away.

While you are settling your child, you may use your telephone in the Therapy Room only.



Earrings, necklaces and jewellery - Earrings, necklaces and other jewellery are not permitted to be worn by the children during nursery. This is because they are active and climbing all the time. Please ensure all items are removed for nursery at all times.



Sandals, crocs and open toe shoes - please also note that children should not wear any shoes with an open toe or back such as crocs; it causes a hazard when they are running and climbing as they could get their toes stuck between the rungs of the ladder for example.

Hot drinks - we do not allow hot drinks to be brought into the nursery. We ask that you respect this policy and leave hot drinks at the office. As with mobile phones, Becky and Sarah will not allow you to enter the building with a hot drink.

Drinks - you do not need to bring any drink cups into nursery, even in your child's bags. They have access to water and milk throughout the session.

Food - we have a number of children at the nursery with a variety of food allergies. Therefore we ask that the only food that is brought into the building is fruit for the baskets. All the food we provide for your children we have checked for allergies.

Dogs - are not permitted anywhere on our premises. Many children (and adults) are nervous around dogs that leap and jump at them. If you walk to nursery and bring your dog with you, please ensure it is tied away from the school gates.

Car park - the nursery car park is very busy at present. We have 4 spaces for our families with a permit. These are issued to families in our SEN unit and those with additional needs. Please do not use our car park at any times without a permit. I have noticed some families using the car park for 'dropping off', this causes the car park to get congested and dangerous. Please also be respectful for the residents in the flats opposite who have allocated parking spaces.



### **Fundraising**

Thank you to the parents who attended our fundraising meeting last week. Our committee raised over £2,500 last year to provide additional treats and resources for your children. If you would like to get involved, please contact Emma (Paige's mum in 3-5s) or Kathy (Jack's mum in 2-3s). The first fundraiser of the year will be a Cake Sale on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Our summer raffle raised £186! Thank you to those of you who bought tickets. This money has enabled us to purchase our new resources for the soft play area! Photographs to follow!

A massive thank you to staff Becky, Carrie and Helen for their fundraising efforts earlier in the



month. They all competed, along with family and friends in the Nuts Challenge! 4km of muddy obstacles, slides, cargo nets, carrying tyres and climbing hay bales all to raise money for FOND. We are very proud of them for doing it and more staff are hoping to join them in a staff team next year. If you would like to sponsor them, our text code remains open, just text NUTX16 followed by your amount to 70070.

### **Thank you Aviva!**

Thank you to a team of 8 staff members from local company Aviva, who spent a day during the summer holidays gardening at the nursery. They worked throughout the day to ensure the grounds were weed free and accessible. Thank you to Andy,

Alistair, Steven, Nathanael, Fiona, Sue, Frank and Liz!

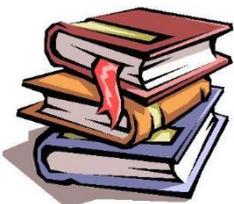


### **Parent Consultations**

You will soon be receiving an invitation to meet with your child's key person to share information about your child and how they are settling. As I am sure you will appreciate, it is very difficult to release staff from the classroom for these meetings, therefore we ask you to try to make the appointment time offered.

### **Governors**

As a school led and run nursery, our Governing Body play an integral role in supporting, challenging and drive us to be the best we can be. Sadly, this term we will be losing two of our parent governors as their time on the body will come to an end. Look out for further information in a few weeks. We will be looking for 2 parent governors to join us, and are particularly looking for people with a background/interest in finance and the Children's Centre.



### **Library books**

We encourage all children to use our library (outside 3-5s door). If you have not already done so, please visit one day before or after nursery and encourage your child to choose a book to take home for you all to enjoy. Please look for your child's 'pocket' to place the library ticket into.

### **From the nursery**

During snacktime an adult was prompting a child to wash their hands. They asked the child "what do you need before you sit down?" and the child replied "a chair!"  
Technically, they are not wrong!

### **PMX**

You may be thinking I am about to tell you about a bike, but no, PMX is our Parent mail service. Please can I ask that all families sign up to PMX. This will enable you to receive messages, information and letters emailed straight to your phone or tablet. You will also get text messages if there are emergency closures. Using PMX also significantly reduces our administration and photocopying costs which means we have more money to spend on your children!

### Don't forget...

Spare clothes - please ensure your child has a change of clothes on their peg. We encourage your child to get messy and dirty at nursery and sometimes they need to be changed. Young children often have accidents and need to be changed. They are much more comfortable in their own clothes rather than our spare ones. Spare clothes should be in a rucksack type bag on your child's peg. Please do not send plastic carrier bags.

Clothes - we want your children to be as independent as possible. Please dress your child in loose comfortable clothes without buttons. Elasticated waists such as leggings and joggers etc. Jeggings are not ideal as they are often a bit snug.

Coats - although we have had a mild September, your children could be outside for the majority of their nursery session and it can get chilly in the shade. Please can we ask you bring a coat/jacket to nursery each day for your child.



Fruit - please bring a piece of fruit for the fruit bowl a couple of times a week. This is shared with the children at snacktime.



Tissues - with the wintery months coming, we go through hundreds of tissues! Please can we ask that you donate a box of tissues to the nursery to keep us going.

All about me - if you have not completed or returned your 'All about me' sheet from your Home Visit, please can you do so. The children love looking through this folder and telling their friends and grown-ups at nursery about their families.

Time keeping - please can we urge that you are on time to collect your child at the end of the session. The children are all settling very well, therefore it is very important for them not to be the last child collected at the end.

### Diary Dates

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

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7pm** - Nursery Open Evening - join us for a glass of wine and to find out what your child gets up to all day!

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 10am - 2pm** - FOND Cake Sale - donations required! More details to follow from FOND

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October** - Half term - Nursery closed

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** - INSET Day - Nursery closed for staff training

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** - Nursery reopens as normal

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December or Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - 2-3s Christmas Sing - more details to come nearer the time

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** - end of term

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** - Nursery closed for Christmas break

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - INSET Day - Nursery closed for staff training

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

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

