



# Newsletter



## 3-5s 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 (Max's dad) and his team of merry men, who cleared the car park and paths as well as gritted 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!

FOND are having an informal meeting tonight, at The Old House, West Street at 8pm if you fancy meeting others and sharing your ideas for fundraising!

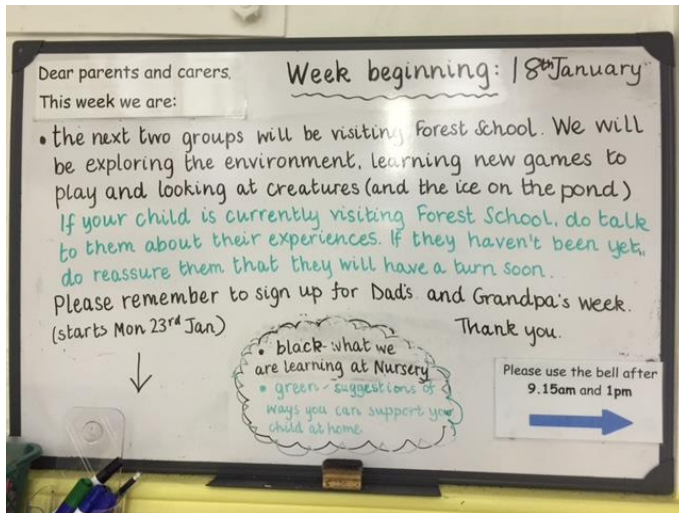


## Attendance, Admissions and Late arrivals

Hopefully, all families have applied for a primary school place? The deadline was last Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. If you applied online, you should get an email during the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> April. For more information go to <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-infant-applications/primary-infant-and-junior-school-admissions>

## Voice of the child

The children were at Forest School looking into the icy pond and wondering where the creatures might be, "I know" said Euan, "Maybe they've gone to work"! ...maybe indeed!



Don't forget to look at the notice boards outside the 3-5s 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, 25 of our 3-5s and 4 of our SEN families completed the questionnaire.

The responses we received were really positive:-

- 96% of families found the information prior to starting useful and informative
- Over half of our new families attended our Open Afternoon in July, however all those who responded found this a good opportunity for their child
- Almost all, 96% strongly agreed that the home visit was a useful part of the settling in process.
- The large majority (88%) found the settling in process worked for their child. There were 3 families who did not find this was the case. As a team we will be discussing and looking again at our settling in processes in time for our new intake in September. We do appreciate this feedback immensely.

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

- *I have been so impressed by the standards at this nursery, in particular how skilled all of the staff are. I have no concerns at all about my son attending nursery and he loves it there.*
- *A great little school for the children and is excellent*

As well as reviewing the settling in process, parents have also asked for more feedback about how their child is doing at nursery. Again, we will review this as a team, as I sure you can appreciate, feeding back to 70 families every day is tricky. 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!

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 or an extended session, just speak to Joanna or Sarah. 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!

### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> January for 3 consecutive Monday's is 'Exploring Communication Development', 9.30am - 11am at West Street. There is no charge for this.

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 - Joanna has sent a separate letter out about this. 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!

### **Zoolab**

The children are loving learning about animals! To support this we have booked the Zoolab to come and spend a day with us next week, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January. This will give the children chance to meet snakes, spiders, giant snails and much more! If you want to know more, please visit their website



<http://www.zoolabuk.com/WhatWeOffer/CoreEducationWorkshops/EarlyYears.aspx>

We would like to ask parents to make a £1 donation towards this event if possible.

## Diary Dates

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

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Dads and Grandads Week

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Zoolab

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February - break up for half term

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Nursery re opens

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Book Week

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Evening

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - break up for Easter break

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Nursery re opens

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

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