



Newsletter



3-5s 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 8th day of the new academic year) we continued to be graded as 'OUTSTANDING'! This is the 6th 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 68 children into our 3-5s nursery. 30 were with us last term and 38 are joining us for the first time. Your children are all doing very well settling into their new routines. 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 Joanna and her team have settled hundreds of children over the years!

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 the 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 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 - Earrings are not permitted to be worn by the children during nursery. This is because they are active and climbing all the time. Please ensure earrings 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 front office. As with mobile phones, Becky and Sarah will not allow you to enter the building with a hot drink.

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.

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.

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 20th 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!



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.

Voice of the child

Two boys were in the garden very busy building with bricks in the log cabin. An adult posed the question "Little pig, little pig, let me come in". The reply was an immediate "NO!" followed by "Not by the hair on my...(lots of pause and hesitation)...ummmmm face face face!" Excellent improvisation, we thought!



Learning at home

We would like to celebrate the wonderful learning that you and your child are doing together when they are not at nursery. Do take a slip from the Home Learning board, also in the library, to explain what you have been doing and return it to your child's keyperson, with any pictures or collages or photos which you are happy for us to share at Group Time or put up in our art gallery in the cloakroom.

When you bring your child to Nursery, do remember to have a look at the board in the library. You can find out what your children will be learning and get some ideas of things you can do to support this learning at home. We are enjoying getting to know your children and delighted with the way they are settling in. Do remember that all children are different and some take longer to become familiar with the new routines than others. If you have any concerns, do seek out your child's keyperson and

have a chat.

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!

Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 5th October - SEN Unit (Pam's unit only) closed for the day

Wednesday 19th 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 20th October 10am - 2pm - FOND Cake Sale - donations required! More details to follow from FOND

Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October - Half term - Nursery closed

Monday 31st October - INSET Day - Nursery closed for staff training

Tuesday 1st November - Nursery reopens as normal

Monday 14th November - Friday 18th November - Forest School Week 1 (if your child is participating in this week, you will receive a separate letter)

Friday 16th December - 3-5s Sing-a-long - more details to follow with timings

Tuesday 20th December - 3-5s Party Day - more details to follow nearer the time

Wednesday 21st December - Last day of term and 3-5s Pyjama day!

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

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

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

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

