



Newsletter - May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now at the half way point of this half term, and the weeks are running away with us, before we know it, we will be saying goodbye to all our school leavers and preparing for the summer holidays!

This term, as always is busy - not just with our 'business as usual' activities, such as library visits, parent meetings and trips to the Woodland; but also with a variety of new things to enjoy like Dads and Grandads Week, World Bee Day (where we will be caring for our environment with seed bombs) and our Sponsored Weeks.

We are on track to get our Eco Green Flag Award, thanks again to Nicky, Lisa and Sue for organising events and ensuring we are creating future citizens who can look after our environment. Thanks also to our Eco Warriors for litter picking last week on World Earth Day.

Don't forget to make a note of all the important dates listed below and do always check the website. We have an INSET day on Friday 21st June. If your child is going to be with us next year in either our SEND or 3-5s class, this will be an opportunity for you and your child to visit for a Stay and Play session. This will be from 12.30pm - 1.30pm - more information will come to you soon.

Our term ends on Wednesday 17th July this year culminating with a Family Day - do put the date in your diary and more information and specific timings will be sent soon.

Please note, as a maintained Surrey school, we operate term time only and follow Surrey's term dates. To access these on Surrey County Council website - [click here](#)¹.

Key people are always at the end of the phone if you are not able to talk to them at drop off or pick up. If you need to talk to a member of staff, please let the office know and they will pass on any messages. The office details are 01306 882397 or admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk.

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to two long standing members of staff. Pam, who has worked at Dorking Nursery School since 1990 and Sue, who has been with us since 2008 have both decided to retire and spend more time with their families - they certainly deserve a rest! Both staff will have supported hundreds of children over their many years at the nursery and will be missed by us all.

Don't forget to follow us on social media - Facebook, Twitter ('X') and Instagram - you can search for us [@dorkingnurseryschool](#).



¹<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2023>

New website launch



If you have visited our website recently, you will have noticed our new website launched over the Easter Holidays! We have streamlined the layout to make it easier to navigate and would love to hear your feedback. If you think something is missing - do let us know! It has a great 'translate' feature and can be translated into lots of other languages, to access the website in another language, click on the small globe icon on the left hand side of the page.

FOND update



A huge thank you to all at FOND for the Spring Raffle, it was a huge success with over 100 prizes ranging from Easter Eggs to vouchers! Thank you so much to every parent, company or business that donated gifts, but also to everyone who bought tickets. 1,001 tickets were sold, which means we raised a total of £1,001!

The fundraising this year from FOND has already helped to buy so many things to benefit the children. We were able to purchase and install the new bike and scooter park; perfect for the warmer

weather coming so the children can cycle and scoot to nursery, as well as some heavy duty sun shades for each garden.

Thank you to Amy and Amy who keep working hard to make all this possible. For more information about FOND this term, please read this terms FOND Newsletter² by visiting the FOND page on our new website.

FOND will be funding seedbombs and Oral Hygiene packs this summer as well as organising for parents to purchase School Leavers T-shirts if they wish.

Important reminders

Bags - please do not send your child to nursery with **any** foods or drink in their bag. We provide all snacks and water/milk is available. This is because some children have specific allergies and it is not unusual for a 3 year old to accidentally go into the bag of another child. Please help us to safeguard all children.

Parking - there is no onsite parking at Dorking Nursery School unless you have requested and been issued with a parking permit. Permits are allocated to parents and/or children with specific needs and disabilities.

For those parents who have been issued with a permit, there is no guarantee of a space at any time, you may have to be patient and wait. These are not to be used as parking for accessing Dorking town centre. If you have a permit, they are for drop off and pick up only.

There is no parking at Pets Corner or in the residents parking spaces opposite.

Mobile phones - please remember that no telephones can be used in the classrooms at any time. This is to safeguard both children and parents. We will also not hand over children to parents at pick up times if they are talking on their telephones or messaging.

Donations and payments -all parents have been sent a link to School Money, which is our secure system for payments. Please note we are cashless. All payments for sessions, lunches, etc are shared with parents through School Money and you will have been sent separate information about this. We also ask for a voluntary £10 a term donation to the school to help with the cost of providing snacks, Forest School, resources for making play dough etc - this has been entered into every child's School Money account and can be paid in one lump sum of £30 or three termly installments of £10.

Change of address/telephone numbers - please keep us updated if you move house or contact numbers change. We need to be able to get hold of you in an emergency, so please do let us know if your details change, this includes email addresses, residential addresses and telephone numbers.

End of session times - there have been many occasions recently where parents and carers have been significantly late to collect their child without reason. Staff are either on breaks, allocated to do a lunch duty or attend meetings as soon as sessions end, therefore, late arrival at the end of sessions does have an impact on the smooth running of the school. Other settings charge a late collection fee which we currently do not, however, this may be a charge we need to enforce if this continues. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Tissues - we kindly ask for a donation of a box of tissues to help our supplies.

²<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Fundraising+-+FOND&pid=28>

Code of conduct - as a Surrey County Council Maintained School, we need to ensure that Dorking Nursery School remains a safe place for children, staff and the community. Please note that abusive or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated and this could result in such persons being barred from the site.

Clothing - please can we kindly ask that clothes are named so that if taken off, we can return them to your child.

School Admissions and September at Dorking Nursery

Children due to start school in September 2024 - if your child is due to leave us this summer and will be attending a mainstream or special needs primary school in September 2024, please let us know which one so that we can ensure a smooth transition by clicking on the link here³. If you do not know this information yet and are worried about your child's place, then do talk to us.

Children who will be in the 3-5s nursery at Dorking Nursery from September 2024 - if your child is with us now and moving to the 3-5s, you should know which session your child has been offered. We will send out more information in the coming weeks about your child's key person, start dates, home visits, etc. Tracey (2-3s lead) will be holding a Coffee Morning with Joanna (3-5s Lead) on **Thursday 23rd May, 9.30am** to share more information about this transition and how we prepare the children for it. There will also be a Stay and Play session for you and your child on Friday 21st June, 12.30pm - 1.30pm.

Changes to funding for two year olds and our 2-3s nursery

It is likely that you will have seen the media coverage and are aware of the changes to funded entitlement for two year olds that was announced in the Spring budget in 2023. This new offer has given entitlements to two year olds whose parents meeting the working criteria.

From the start of this term, all parents who work and meet the criteria will be able to access 15 hours of funded entitlement per week, and from September 2025 parents of two year olds will be able to access 30 hours of funded entitlement. To check your eligibility please visit the Childcare Choices website⁴.

At Dorking Nursery, we continue to offer all our funded entitlements over 5 morning, 5 afternoon or 5 full day sessions and opened up the 2-3s Nursery in the afternoon sessions from the start of this term. If your child is currently in the 2-3s and you wish to extend their day, then please ask at the office for more details and availability.

The new funded entitlements and checking what you are eligible for can be confusing, so please just ask at the office or visit our 'Understanding funded entitlement'⁵ page on the website.

³<https://forms.office.com/e/SbxvnZDgHW>

⁴<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

⁵<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Understanding+funded+entitlements&pid=38>

Sponsored Events

A Dorking Nursery tradition takes place each May—this is our Sponsored Events. During a specific week in May, each class will take part in a range of challenges outside. This might be an obstacle challenge, a circuit, or even a cycle race. We will share photographs for you on Tapestry so you can see what your child has been doing as well as on our social media channels. Last year we raised £800 and have set ourselves a £1,000 target this year.

You can sponsor your child through Just Giving, and the link makes it easy to share with family and friends, as well as 'Gift Aid' your donation if you are able to. The fun starts next week in the 2-3s, followed by 3-5s and then SEND.

To make your donation visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/dnschallenge2024 or scan the QR code to take you directly to our page!



Foodbank donations and meal vouchers



Thank you to everyone who made a foodbank donation for Comic Relief. This is really well received by the local foodbank and donations shared with the community.

If you would normally receive school meal vouchers in the school holidays, we have just been informed that these are currently on hold and the scheme may not be continuing in the future. Therefore, if this is the case we will not be issuing vouchers. As soon as we know more information we will update parents.

Key dates

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday Monday - Nursery Closed

Tues 7th May - 2-3s Sponsored Challenge

Monday 13th May - 3-5s Sponsored Challenge

Monday 20th May - SEND Sponsored Challenge

Monday 20th May - World Bee Day

Thursday 23rd May, 9.30am - Transition Coffee Morning (for parents of children moving from the 2-3s to the 3-5s this September)

Friday 24th May - Last day of half term

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Nursery closed for half term

Monday 3rd June - Nursery reopens

Tuesday 4th June - Bag2School - see FOND Newsletter

Monday 10th June - Oral Hygiene Week

Monday 17th June - Dads and Grandads Week - separate information to follow

Monday 17th June - World Music Week - more information to follow

Friday 21st June - INSET Day, Nursery closed.

Friday 21st June, 12.30pm - 1.30pm - Stay and Play session (for parents and children moving from the 2-3s to 3-5s Nursery)

Wednesday 17th July - Family Fun Day and LAST DAY OF TERM

More dates and news can be found on our website ⁶ or on our Facebook Page⁷ or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website⁸.

⁶<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

⁷<https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

⁸<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2021>

Final note

Finally, thank you for all your continued support! If you have any comments, questions or queries, please contact the office.

Regards

Donna

Executive Headteacher

