



Newsletter - Summer term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are already three weeks into the summer term and the weeks are flying by! The start of this term was a busy one for us all with our Ofsted Inspection on the 14th and 15th April. Although we are always expecting Ofsted to call, it is always a huge surprise when they make their 'Monday morning early phone call'! Thank you to all the parents who completed the survey and to those who spoke to one of the inspectors. As soon as we receive the report, I will share it with you.

Sadly, Joanna - our 3-5s Lead has made the decision to retire from her position with us at Dorking Nursery School at the end of this summer term. Joanna has worked at Dorking Nursery since 2010 and been integral in establishing our Forest School. We will wish her

well at the end of term events. I know you will wish her well and for many of you with older children, really appreciate the dedication Joanna has given to the school and families for 16 years.

On a positive note, Nicole will be replacing Joanna in the role of 3-5s Lead from September, I am sure you will join me in congratulating her.

Communication:

If at any time you need to talk to your child's key person or a member of staff, the office is your first port of call for this. Although staff are on the gates at drop off and pick up times, they are also in class ratios or needed at meetings, so this may not be the best time to talk. If you let the office know that you want to talk to someone, they will ensure the message gets to you and a convenient time arranged.

Primary School Admissions:

Many of our children will be leaving us this summer for Primary School. If you have not let us know yet which school your child will be attending, please do so via the link. This helps us plan a successful transition for them to their new schools. Jennifer will be holding a Preparing for Primary School Information session later in the term.

Leavers T-shirts:

For the last few years, we have organised Leavers T-shirts for our children to wear on the last day of term. These are white t-shirts, printed with our logo and will say 'Leavers 2026'. If you would like your child to have one, please put £10 in a named envelope and take this to the office. Please state if you would like a size 3-4 or 5-6. No changes can be made once ordered. If you are experiencing financial hardship and are not able to purchase a t-shirt, please speak to Donna who might be able to offer some support. Orders must be made by Friday 12th June.



Sponsored Obstacles 2026

Our summer term sponsored challenge is well under way! This week the 3-5s have been climbing, jumping, crawling and challenging themselves to raise much needed funds for our school. This year we are raising money to help replenish the sand in our sandpits and purchase some new water proofs so that we can access outdoor learning in all weathers. Next week will be the turn of the 2-3s and the week after will be SEND class. If you have not sponsored your child yet, please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/dnschallenge2026> to do so. Share the link with family and friends and do not forget to Gift Aid your donation if you can. We have already almost smashed our target!

We will be adding these funds raised to that of the Easter Raffle where we raised £401 - thank you again to Amy (Elsie's mum) for all her amazing efforts with prizes.

We need your help....do you work for a company or know someone that can match fund or help us to enhance our fundraising for new waterproofs? We would love to hear from you.



Calling all dads...

Homestart offer outreach services/drop-ins at a variety of venues for dads, including 1:1 peer support to dads, signpost dads to access services and information to help make sense of being a dad and supporting dads with anxiety, stress and mental health awareness. For more information visit Dad Matters Surrey Contact Details¹

Staying safe online:

The Department for Education have issued new guidance to families regarding screen time for the Under 5s and how to stay safe online. There is so much information for parents to navigate and it is important to put safeguards in place. For more information visit New screen time guidance for parents of under-5s - GOV.UK²

- Under 2s: Avoiding screen time other than for shared activities that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- 2 to 5-year-olds: Trying to keep it to no more than one hour a day. Avoid at mealtimes and in the hour before bed.
- Content: Choosing slow-paced, age-appropriate content. Fast-paced, social media-style videos and AI toys or tools should be avoided for young children.
- Co-viewing: Watching or using screens together - talking, asking questions and engaging with the content - is better for children's development than solo screen use.

The Information Commissioners Office has also issued this guidance to support privacy and safeguarding settings - Switched on to privacy | ICO³

¹https://www.home-start.org.uk/dad-matters-surrey?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21023048119&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI6_vDvtXJkwMV4lhQBh1gNgQYEAAYASAAEglGAPD_BwE&es_c=395C72472A41E240439AC1769AE1922C&es_cl=8380C81512F7EB6ABB4481BBBD0655F5&es_id=paFr2

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-screen-time-guidance-for-parents-of-under-5s>

³<https://ico.org.uk/switched-on-to-privacy/>



Free School Meal Vouchers in the holidays

Having informed eligible parents that this scheme was ending at Easter, I have been informed that Surrey County Council will be continuing the Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers to cover the May 2026 half term holiday. This will be funded via the new UK Government Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Reminders

Parking - thank you to everyone for being so accomodating with our reduced parking at present. Our extension in the SEND Classroom to create some toilets is progressing well.

Please continue to park off site if you do not have a permit and respect our neighbours. .

Black gate at the bottom of the drive - thank you also to those who have been closing the black gate at the bottom of the drive. It really does help to keep everyone safe. It is the responsibility of all our school community to help us with this.

School Money - please can I remind parents/carers to ensure that any fees for additional sessions/lunches are paid in advance through School Money accounts. The summer term donation of £10 will also be added for payments to be made if you are able to. Please can I ask that all payments are made promptly as we have to pay our meal suppliers and staffing costs in advance.

Tissues - we kindly ask for a donation of a box of tissues each term to help our supplies, as I am sure you can imagine, we go through lots!

If you are **eligible for the Working Parent Entitlement**, please ensure your code is renewed when required and let us know to avoid any charges for sessions.

Term dates - Please note the dates at the end of the newsletter and Surrey term dates, to access these on Surrey County Council website - [click here](#)⁴.

Collection at the end of the session - please note that staff will not send children to their parents at home time if they are on their mobile phones, either talking or scrolling on the screen. If that is the case, you will be asked to put your telephone away prior to your child being sent to you. Please can I also ask that parents are prompt at collection times, as staff are needed in meetings and back in ratios at the end of session.

Attendance - Attendance at school is really important and we will follow up on all absences. If you know your child will not be in for any reason, please call and let the office know dates of absence and reason. We will always ask the specific reason for absence, so that we can monitor any contagious or infectious illnesses that we need to let others know about. This is to safeguard everyone, so please do not be offended if we ask.

Summer term key dates

- Monday 27th April - 3-5s Obstacles Challenge
- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday Monday - Nursery closed
- Tuesday 5th May - 2-3s Obstacles Challenge
- Wednesday 6th May - 2-3s to 3-5s Transition Meeting, 9am or 12.45pm
- Saturday 9th May - Dorking Vintage Day 12pm - 4pm
- Monday 11th May - SEND Obstacles Challenge
- Friday 22nd May - end of half term
- Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - Nursery closed - Half term
- Monday 1st June - Nursery reopens
- Friday 19th June - Nursery Closed - INSET Day
- Monday 22nd June - Dads and Grandads Week
- Thursday 16th July 2026 - Last day of summer term - Family Day

*All dates noted - more information will be sent nearer the time with specific information and timings.

⁴<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2023>

There will also be **Parent Meetings** for specific classes, this will be sent separately.

More dates and news can be found on our website ⁵ or on our Facebook Page⁶ or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website⁷.



Final note

Finally, thank you for all your continued support for Dorking Nursery School! If you have any comments, questions or queries, please contact the office. Don't forget to follow us on social media - Facebook and Instagram - you can search for us @dorkingnurseryschool.

Regards

Donna

Executive Headteacher

⁵<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

⁷<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2021>

Building trust, empowering communities, educating all

Parent/carer Advice and Support Groups

YMCA East Surrey Family Centres offer a wide range of activities and services for parents and carers of children aged 0-18 years (up to 25 years with additional needs and disabilities).

- SEND drop-ins
- The Nurturing Programme (formally Parenting Puzzle)
- Parent drop-ins

Please see the links below for more information.

YMCA East Surrey Family Centres

<https://www.ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk/services/cyp/children/holiday-clubs/>

Mole Valley Family Centre

<https://www.ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk/services/cyp/youth-family/family-centres/mole-valley-family-centre/timetable/>

Surrey Adult Learning

Run a range of free or subsidised targeted community learning programmes.

Courses are available daytime, evening and weekends for most of the year during term times and are a mixture of online delivery and face-to-face courses.

Family learning adult learning courses - Surrey County Council⁸

Family Support advice sessions follow up links

Fussy Eating

<https://www.nhs.uk/baby/weaning-and-feeding/fussy-eaters/>

<https://library.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Help-for-children-who-are-extremely-fussy-eaters.pdf>

Potty training

Potty training - ERIC⁹

⁸<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

How to potty train - NHS¹⁰

Dorking Library Events

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/your-library/find-your-nearest/dorking/events-and-activities>

Community Life - New Life Church

Provide support classes and courses. Please see their website for more details on the following:

Baby first aid/ Parenting courses/ Messy play sessions

<https://www.newlifedorking.co.uk/communitylife>

⁹<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

¹⁰<https://cambsporochildrenshealth.nhs.uk/peeing-pooing-and-toileting/a-guide-to-toileting/>