



Newsletter - September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year! Firstly, thank you for making the decision to choose Dorking Nursery School for your child's early education. As the only maintained school in the area and so much choice in terms of early years provision, we are thrilled you have chosen us to lay the foundations in your child's educational journey and life.

We welcome 56 new children and their families to Dorking Nursery School and look forward to a wonderful year of learning and adventures together. Thank you to everyone who has been working with us to help settle their children into their new environments. Transition can be a very unsettling time for both parents and children, so please do keep working with

us and talking to us so we can ensure it is a pace that is individualised. Transition should be seen as a process, not an event, so it should not happen over night and is then complete.

Do take time to read the newsletter carefully, making a note of the dates and events taking place this year. More information will come out closer to each event, but at least you have the dates for now. There is also a list of useful reminders.

Throughout this newsletter are a series of quotes from our parent feedback survey in the summer - I hope they give you a flavour of the positive feedback we received.

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. More about the office ladies later!

In terms of communication, home time is busy, therefore a 1:1 handover is not possible. However, do rest assured that if there has been a problem, if your child has not eaten much or are not themselves, we will talk to you at home time. If there is no information shared with you, then take this as a positive sign that your child has been ok.

"Words cannot describe how grateful I feel to all staff at DNS...My son was there for 2 years. He started non-verbal and finished talking in sentences...the team is led by wonderful staff who will go above and beyond to support not only the children but the whole family... This Nursery School is one of a kind with unforgettable people".

Reminders

Parking - parking onsite for drop off and pick up is only for families who have a valid Blue Badge, or for those who have applied to us for a parking permit and this application has been successful. There is no onsite parking at any other times. I kindly ask that this is respected, along with that of the local neighbours in the Fire Station residence and Pets Corner. If I am informed of parents not respecting this I will talk directly with parents or have to send out reminders by Teachers to Parents.

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 - you will have received a link to your School Money account on Friday along with an email from Sarah about this. This is to pay for any additional, extended or lunch sessions, as well as your £10 donation (see below). This link would have been sent to the primary parent/carer on our records. Do contact the office if you need another email to be notified, or if you need any help with this App.

Teachers2Parents - is the communication system we use to email families. Please look out for this as it may have gone to your junk or spam folders. Please set it as a 'safe' or 'favourite' contact.

Termly donation - you may have seen a £10 termly donation on your School Money account. This is a voluntary contribution to enable us to provide enhancements to our curriculum. This includes all breakfasts and snacks, Woodland and Forest School snacks, resources to make playdough and other sensory activities and much more. If you are able to make this donation, we are really grateful.

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!

Fees for lunches and extended/additional sessions - please ensure accounts and payments are up to date in advance. As per the terms and conditions (which were also sent last week), we ask for payment in advance of any sessions taken as we have to ensure the appropriate staffing is in place and order meals in advance. Please also note, we do not extend any sessions until a child is settled in their core funded session.

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](#)¹.

Drop off - at the start of sessions, please note that the doors will not open prior to the start time of a session, so if you arrive early, you will be asked to wait outside and supervise your child. Being made to wait can be very unsettling for young children, and can escalate their anxieties and feelings, so you may want to consider arriving at the start time, rather than prior.

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.

Tapestry - For new families, you will have been sent (another) link to set up your Tapestry account. If you have not done so already, do log in and check your Tapestry account regularly. You can select to get notifications when this has been updated. This is a great way to see what your child is interested in at nursery and to spark up a conversation with them about their learning.

It is wonderful to know that parents have seen the posts, so please do this by either commenting on the post or 'liking' it with the 'thumbs up'. Please feel free to add photos

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

from home too! We love to see them. Please note, we want to maximise the time that staff are with your children, so posts will be made monthly as it is very time consuming and the interactions with your children come first.

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.

We follow all guidance from the NHS, Department for Education and UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) for incubation periods and illnesses.

"It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above".

We would encourage all parents to read the following guidance from the NHS; NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance²

It is also our policy not to allow children to attend nursery if they have been given Calpol, Ibuprofen or similar over-the-counter medicine as this could mask symptoms and temperatures. We can also only administer prescription medicines. You will need to complete a form in the office if your child needs to be given prescription medicine. We require children to remain off nursery following episodes of vomiting and diarrhoea for 48 hours to avoid the spread of any illnesses.

"We honestly couldn't have been happier with Dorking Nursery School...All the staff have been absolutely wonderful. It is such a caring, supportive and fun environment... my child has loved every moment! His confidence has grown and his interests and skills nurtured."



1 - Sarah, Andi, Fran - Front of house team

²<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Meet our front of house team - Sarah, Andi and Fran! These ladies are your first port of call at any time, they are the centre of our school organisation and keep everything going behind the scenes (led by a wonderful School Business Manager, Nicky and supported by a wider non-staffing team of Chris, Janine, Rita, Lucy and Siobhan!)

Sarah leads on all aspects of supporting school finance and the premises. If you have a query regarding your fees or School Money in particular, Sarah is the lady to ask to see.

Andi and Fran job share - between them, they lead on a variety of aspects from booking extended sessions, absences, Tapestry accounts, booking parent meetings or just any enquiry you have! There will always be one of them available on the end of the phone for any queries or in the office to pop in and see!

Any query, just email (admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk), telephone (01306 882397) or pop in and see them - they are amazing at multi-tasking (often in the middle of something when the phone rings) but will always be there to help. They are so well respected by our classroom teaching team - and I am sure as you get to know them throughout the year, you will also appreciate them as much as we do!

“Thank you all for making our child's first year a pleasure...as guardians, we felt supported from the start. The understanding and effort made by key staff was fantastic... When we tell her it's a school day she gives a little pleased smile which is telling in itself.”



Meet Jennifer, our very own Family Support Worker. Not all schools are fortunate to have their own Family Support Worker, but we are. Jennifer can help parents with any aspect of life and parenting they are finding tricky, from potty training to housing applications, her support is varied based on need. If you feel you would like some support - do talk to a member of staff who can introduce you.

Jennifer also will be leading on our new Parent/Carer Drop in sessions and workshops this year - look out for more information coming, but our first drop ins start on 2nd October - no need to book, simply come along for a cuppa and chat, it is also a good way to get to know other parents and families.

Family Support drop-ins



Looking to network with other families? Want some advice or have a question about your child or any aspect of parenting or simply just fancy a chat over a cuppa?

Our friendly drop-in sessions with Jennifer, our Family Support Worker are open to all families



Session times:
Every other Thursday (starting 2nd October)
9.30am – 10.30am or
2pm – 2.45pm

Look out for guest speakers or themed sessions throughout the year

Building trust, Empowering communities, Educating all

“I can’t tell you how happy we are we enrolled our daughter at DNS. She has had so much support and has been truly cared for as an individual... It really shines through how much they love and respect the children they look after.”

Autumn term key dates

- Thursday 2nd October - Drop in sessions with Jennifer begin - see above for further dates and information
- Friday 24th October - INSET Day - Nursery Closed
- Monday 27th - Friday 31st October - Half term - Nursery Closed
- Monday 3rd November - Nursery term starts as normal
- Monday 10th November -National Nursery Rhyme Week

- Friday 14th November - Children in Need
- Sunday 30th November -Dorking Gala
- Thursday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- Monday 15th December - 3-5s sing a long *
- Tuesday 16th December - 2-3s sing a long and party *
- Wednesday 17th December - 3-5s party day *
- Friday 19th December - SEND party and sing a long*
- Friday 19th December - Pyjama Day*
- Friday 19th December - Last day of term
- Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026 - Christmas holidays - Nursery closed
- 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.

There will also be **Parent Meetings** and **Woodland/Forest School** dates for specific classes, this will be sent separately.

More dates and news can be found on our website ³ or on our Facebook Page⁴ or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website⁵.

INSET Days 2025-26 - Nursery closed on all INSET Days:-

- Friday 24th October 2025
- Friday 13th February 2026
- Friday 19th June 2026

“The team are fabulous! They have gone above and beyond for our family and our experience has been all we could have hoped for. A great introduction to education!”

Final note

³<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

⁴<https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

⁵<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2021>

Finally, thank you for all your continued support and for choosing 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

"I recommend Dorking Nursery to all of my family & people I meet...It's not just a nursery—it's a safe, caring and loving place. The children are always so happy and looked after in a way you would want as a parent."

Building trust, empowering communities, educating all

