



Newsletter - January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year, here is to a wonderful 2026!

I hope you all had a lovely break with your children over the festive period. Myself and the staff would like to sincerely thank those of you who purchased gifts for us before the holidays, it really is appreciated. December at Dorking Nursery School was filled with festive fun, from arts, crafts, role play, parties, magicians and even a visit from the big man himself who visited on the last day of term.

We now enter the spring term, the shortest term of the year. This term is still busy with events such as Woodland Adventures, Mum's and Grandma's Week and Parent Meetings. Do look out for more information on separate events as they get closer.

School Admissions:

Next **Thursday, 15th January** is a very important deadline for those of you with children due to start primary school in September 2026. Please ensure you have completed your application by this date. If you need any help at all, do not hesitate to contact us and we can arrange for Jennifer, our Family Support Worker to help you.

The 15th January is also the closing date for our applications for September 2026. If your child already attends Dorking Nursery School you do not need to re-apply, however, do remind friends and family locally with younger children to complete their applications, or if you have younger children do not forget to complete their application.

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.

Declaration forms:

If your child attends in a funded place with us, (2 year old FEET funding, Working Parent Entitlement, Universal 3 year old funding) do not forget to visit the office to sign your declaration form so that we can access this.



Reminders

Parking - there continues to be a few parents who are parking onsite for drop off and pick up without a valid permit or blue badge. There is no onsite parking at any time without a permit. 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 - please can I remind parents/carers to ensure that any fees for additional sessions/lunches are paid in advance through School Money accounts. The spring 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 here¹.

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.

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



Spring term key dates

- Friday 16th January - 3-5s Woodland Adventures begin - look out for separate information
- Wednesday 21st January - SEND Woodland Adventures - look out for separate information
- Monday 9th February - 2-3s Woodland Adventures begin - look out for separate information
- Friday 13th February -INSET Day - Nursery closed
- Friday 6th March - 3-5s Woodland Adventures begin - look out for separate information
- Monday 16th March - Mums and Grandmas Week - look out for separate information
- Friday 27th March - Last day of term for Easter
- Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Nursery closed, Easter Holidays
- Monday 13th April - Summer term begins
- 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** for specific classes, this will be sent separately.

More dates and news can be found on our website ² or on our Facebook Page³ or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website⁴.

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

- Friday 13th February 2026
- Friday 19th June 2026



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

²<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

³<https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

⁴<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 Council⁵

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 - ERIC⁶

How to potty train - NHS⁷

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>

⁵<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

⁶<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

⁷<https://cambsborochildrenshealth.nhs.uk/peeing-pooing-and-toileting/a-guide-to-toileting/>

