



Newsletter

2-3s Dorking Nursery February 2021

Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre, West Street
Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BY, Tel: 01306 882397
www.dorkingnurserychildrenscentre.org.uk

Dear parents and carers

As this half term comes to a close, I thought it would be useful to put a newsletter together with all the important updates and information in with only a small amount of 'Covid related' information in it. The term so far has not been without its challenges - including lockdowns and snow! I am really proud of our staff who have continued to ensure your children get the very best experiences at Nursery and continue to thrive and make progress.

We welcomed 11 new children and families to our nursery community in January who have all settled well with us and attendance continues to be extremely high. This shows that as parents you have complete confidence and trust in our control procedures to keep your child safe, and also demonstrates how important it is for a good start in your child's education. As you will know from the parentmail sent at the end of last week, staff are now being tested for Covid 19 twice a week which will enable us to identify potential cases early and keep the entire community safe. Thank you to the staff for doing this.

Next week is half term, therefore Nursery is closed from Friday 12th February until Monday 22nd February. Have a safe week and enjoy the time with your children whilst adhering to the national lockdown guidance.

Important Dates:- (new dates added in green)

Friday 12th February - last day of half term

Monday 22nd February - return to Nursery after the half term break

Monday 1st March - **FOND Bags2School** - please drop your clothing donations on Sunday 28th February or before 9am on Monday 1st March into the large buggy park.

Thursday 4th March - World Book Day - separate information to be sent, the children will receive a £1 book token and Bookstart Packs

Friday 19th March - Red Nose Day - more information to follow

Thursday 1st April - Nursery INSET day - closed

Friday 25th June - Nursery INSET day - closed

Friday 16th July - last day of term for the children

All term dates are available on our website, we follow the Surrey term dates -

<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/term-dates>

Lots of other information is often shared on our Facebook page - please follow us if you are on social media @dorkingnurseryschool

About Dorking Nursery School - if you follow us on Facebook, you will have seen some recent articles that are being shared by Dorking Museum about our history. Dorking Nursery School opened in October 1939 to provide quality opportunities for evacuated children to have normality during World War Two. We are really proud of this history as we were the first war time nursery school to open during the war. We have continued to provide quality education ever since. Many people do not realise that Dorking Nursery School is a 'school', the only maintained Nursery School in the area - we are legislated in the



same way as primary and secondary schools and therefore benefit from having qualified teachers on our staff. We work hard to ensure all our children are ready for school and life with the education we provide.



As a school, we are led and managed by a Governing Body. Our Governing Body is responsible for supporting myself and the leadership team run the school. If you would like to know more please visit our website <https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/governors> - we have recently updated our 'Who's Who' on the Governing Body document if you would like to know who the individuals are.

Car parking/dropping off - as always, please can I remind parents that parking on site is only for families with a valid permit - it is not to be used for any other reason. Parents and children have to walk through the car park due to our one way system, so please be respectful of this and walk to school or use other local car parks. I also ask that you respect our neighbours in the Fire Station flats and Pets Corner.

End of session pick ups - please remember to be on time for the end of session to collect your child. All staff have commitments when the sessions finish in either attending meetings or covering for lunch sessions etc, therefore it is important that children are collected on time. It is also very unsettling for your child if they are late to be collected. We appreciate the queue is often very long, and we are aiming to get the children out to you as quickly as possible - so do appreciate your cooperation and patience with this.

Arriving and leaving the premises - please can I ask all parents to walk along the path enclosed by the railings when arriving or leaving the site, and NOT through the driveway where cars are entering and leaving.

Dressing appropriately - parents may not realise the amount of time their children spend outside when they are with us and we are maximising the outdoor spaces we have even more at present for good ventilation. They love exploring the environment outside, therefore, it is vital they are dressed for the weather each day, with lots of layers if needed. Please make sure your child has a warm coat, as well as hats and gloves if needed. Please help us to make sure we can re-unite your child with any misplaced items by clearly naming everything.

Elastic waisted clothing is also ideal for young children to be independent when using the bathroom. Please ensure we have enough nappies if your child needs them, and also spare clothes in their bag, so that they can be changed into their own things if they have an accident or get wet having fun!

Wellies and socks - we are running low of our stocks of socks and wellington boots! If you have any unwanted wellingtons - sizes 7-10, we would be very grateful for the donations. We will quarantine them before reusing.

Illness and absence and Covid - this is a subject that is talked about frequently at the moment. We follow the PHE guidance at all times with regards to all childhood illnesses, as well as the incubation periods for them.

Your child will get poorly; colds, runny noses, sore throats, sickness and diarrhoea are all viruses that children will develop that help them to build up their immunity and stay healthy. However, at the moment, we have to be cautious when your child has the Covid-19 symptoms.

If at any time your child or someone in your household has a high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell, your household must begin a self-isolation period and request a Covid-19 test for the symptomatic person. This is important in order to avoid the transmission of the virus even if you think your child is asymptomatic.

Please remember that if you have given your child Calpol or any type of paracetamol/ ibuprofen in the morning you need to keep them off Nursery for the day. These medicines can mask Covid symptoms.

During the half term break, we are still responsible to NHS Test and Trace. If your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in Nursery, ie if they develop symptoms over the first weekend of the half term, and as a result receive a positive test result, please can I ask you to email the office (admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk) so that I can inform the rest of your child's bubble to isolate as appropriate, and we can make the necessary arrangements for that bubble after the break.

Bookstart - we work closely with the National Charity Bookstart, who provide free books and literacy resources to young children. Bookstart aims to encourage a love of books, stories and rhymes in children. Sharing stories, mark making, singing nursery rhymes and looking at books are just a few activities that if encouraged in young children will help them to be readers and writers when they are in school! During book week, your child will be coming home with a green 'Bookstart Reach Pack' - this contains two story books, parent information leaflets, finger puppets and mark making resources. We will be sharing the contents of the packs with the children before they bring them home so they are familiar with them. There is an information leaflet in the packs for parents, and if you complete the online survey link you may be eligible to win a £100 Amazon voucher.



£5 termly voluntary contribution - thank you to those of you who have made your £5 termly contribution to the Nursery. This supports the costs of additional resources, experiences such as resources to make playdough and use in the malleable area (such as pasta, rice, cornflour, etc). If you have not done so yet, we would be very grateful if you could make a donation to us so we can continue to provide the very best for your child. You can make this donation in cash, in a named sealed envelope or via BACS

A/C name: Dorking Nursery School

Sort code: 40-19-22
A/C number: 51209752
Address of bank: HSBC, Dorking, RH4 1BW

Tissues - achool! We ask families to donate a box of tissues to us each term, this means more money in the budget for other things, and helps us keep noses clean!

Fundraising and FOND - Don't forget there are two great new easy ways to raise money for our Nursery School which we hope you will use and spread the word about. Neither of them cost you a penny - you just have to purchase your usual goods and services online but via one of these two websites and it automatically raises funds for us. Shops include Amazon, Ebay, Argos, Tesco, M&S, John Lewis, Currys, B&Q and loads more.



Sign up to www.easyfundraising.co.uk .



The Giving Machine is another site where you can set up a Giver account and just visit the Giving Machine website before you shop. Sign up at

www.givingmachine.co.uk

For more information visit our website - <https://www.dorkingnurserychildrenscentre.org.uk/news/help-us-fundraise-nursery>

September admissions

The Admissions Committee of the Governing Body has recently met to consider the applications for the 3-5s Nursery in September. We will be sending out notification and confirmation letters after half term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter! If you have any questions to ask, please talk to your key person or another member of staff, or catch me out on the gate at the start of your session!

Regards
Donna Harwood-Duffy
Headteacher

National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

