



Newsletter

Happy
New Year!

2-3s Nursery January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy 2016! I hope you all had a restful holiday and are ready for what 2016 brings. The children have all settled back into nursery really well. The spring term is somewhat short, therefore what feels like cold dark mornings will soon be over.

The autumn term finished with a variety of festive events. It was wonderful to see so many of you attend these and I know your children loved seeing you! If you took any photos of your child that you would like to share with me for the website, I would love to receive them. Just email them to me at head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk.

A massive thank you on behalf of myself and all the staff for the gifts which were received. The biscuits and chocolates are definitely keeping us all going.

Raffle

Wow! Our raffle was a big success! We raised a total of £650! This is most certainly a record. I will be dividing the money across the whole Centre and will let you know what we decide to buy. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, as well as those of you who gave a donation for prizes. Again, thank you to Sarah, Becky and Janine in the office for doing all the hard work and contacting local businesses! A full list of those to thank is at the back of the newsletter. We will be having an Easter Hamper raffle...so watch this space!

Parking

Yet again I have to write about parking. We do not have spaces for parents for drop off and pick up unless they have a Dorking Nursery School Permit. I do urge you to purchase a permit for the local car parks for £10 a year.

Additional sessions and lunchclub

Don't forget if you would like your child to stay for lunch club, please speak to your child's Key Person or Tracey. Also, if you would like additional sessions in January, we do have a few empty spaces on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday is now full.

From the nursery

We use a variety of methods to communicate in the nursery, ranging from Makaton, PECS, PODD and using our voices. The girls in the picture were using a PODD board containing a variety of symbols to show emotions. They were discussing with each other how they thought their baby doll was feeling by pointing to the symbols.



End of the session

Please can I remind parents that the the morning session ends at 11.45am and lunchclub ends at 12.30pm. At this time the team have to attend planning meetings, staff meetings and also prepare the nursery for the next day. Just before the holidays there were many occasions where parents were arriving late. This has an impact on the nursery and is also very distressing for your child. We do keep a log of all late collections and I will be in contact with those concerned if this continues. At private nursery settings, there is a charge for late collection. We do not currently have this system in place, however, it may have to be a policy that myself and the Governors consider if this continues.

Can you leave your buggy at home?

Our buggy park gets really busy during the nursery day, especially when services are running in the Children's Centre. Walking is not only a wonderful social activity for you and your child, however, it also has a significant impact on your child's physical and brain development. It would be great if parents could consider encouraging their child to walk to nursery, or event begin walking from the bottom of the drive, I always believe that small steps climb big mountains...why not try it?

Attendance

Although nursery is non-statutory, we are bound by the local authority and Ofsted to monitor the attendance of all children. Good attendance at nursery is help you and your child get into routines for when they start school. The children who attend regularly also make significant progress in their development.

Parent feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed the feedback questionnaire at the end of term. The results are attached at the back of the newsletter, along with our response to the points you have raised.

Woodland Adventures

Tracey has written to you recently asking for volunteers for our Woodland Adventures. We really cannot run extra curricular activities like these without your help and support. There will be a meeting at 9.15am on Thursday 21st January to for parents to find out more about the Adventures for their child. We also ask for a £1 voluntary contribution for Woodland, this covers the costs of the additional snacks and other resources.

Fathers and Grandfathers Week—25th—29th Jan

You will be receiving a letter about this exciting opportunity for dads and granddads (and uncles!) to come and spend time in the nursery!

Supporting your child's communication and language development at home

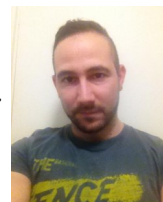
El, our SENCo and Helen, our Children's Centre Manager will be running a practical workshop for nursery parents on Thursday 4th February from 9am—11.30am or 12.45pm—3.15pm. This will give you lots of ideas to improve communication with your child. There will group discussions and practical ideas of how to turn anything into an opportunity to support your child with communication. If you would like to book a place at this free session while your child is in nursery, please let Becky and Sarah know.

Speech and Language Therapists

The Dorking Schools' Partnership (15 schools in the area working together) are seriously considering developing a project to support a Speech and Language therapist.

It would be very helpful to have the contact details of local Speech and Language therapists.

Please could you contact Stella Willis on willis.stella@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk or phone 01306 886312 if you know anyone who may be interested or are interested yourself.



Staff changes

We welcome two new members of staff this term.

Cem Memish joins our team as our new Caretaker, and Charlotte Pesquero will be taking over as SENCo from El Davis in February when El begins her maternity leave. I know you will make them both feel welcome.



We will also be saying goodbye to Angela Diggins later on in the term. Many of you may know Angela who works at our Goodwyns Road site as a Family Support Practitioner. Angela has decided to spend more time with her family—we wish her well!



Contacting Health Visitors

We work closely with the Health team locally. If you need advice from a Health Visitor, please call the number below. Please note this an advice line, not an emergency number.

The Advice Line number is: 0208 979 6464. It is open between **9.30am and 1pm**. If a parent leaves a message on the answerphone before 1pm the team will try and return the call that day.

Children's Centre news

There is a new Spring term programme available, please check the website for sessions, groups and courses. Alternatively please pick one up at the office.

Dads' group

We hold a Dads' and male carers' group at the Goodwyns Road site on the first Saturday of each month. The next groups will be on January 9th, February 6th and March 5th 2016 from 10am-12pm. We ask for a donation of £1.50 plus a contribution towards the bacon butties. To find out more speak to Natalie Grace on 01306 740095.



Family First Aid

SURREY TRUST
CARE
Nurturing skills | Changing lives

This is always a popular course so we will be running 2 Family First Aid courses this term as well as an evening course in April 2016. If you would like to put your name on the waiting list for one of these courses please ring Sarah on 01306 740095 or Becky on 01306 882397.

Once we have confirmed your place on a First Aid course, we ask for a £5 booking fee to secure your place. This helps us cover the administrative costs of running these workshops.

NEW FOR 2016

Conversation Café.



This group is held monthly at West Street and is a group to support parents who speak English as an additional language. There will be others there to chat to and we will provide resources to help develop conversational skills. If you need to bring under 5s with you, they can play in the room alongside the adults.

9.30am-10.30am Wednesday 13th January, 10th February and 9th March

Speech and Language Advice Sessions

If you are concerned that your child may have a speech and language delay, drop in to speak to Helen and Maria at our monthly advice sessions. West Street 10-11am Wednesday 27th January, February 24th and March 23rd.

Citizens Advice Bureau



Janet, from Citizens Advice comes into our Centre at Goodwyns Road every Tuesday from 10am-12pm. From February onwards she will not be at the Centre every week but you can ring her and she will arrange to meet you either at either of our sites. Please ask us for her contact details if you want them.

Friday 15th January 2016 is the closing date for our 2-3s and 3-5s Nursery admissions, so please make sure you have completed an application form for younger siblings by this date to avoid disappointment, please also let friends locally know to do so. Please also ensure you have completed the form for the 3-5s with your session preference. Please note, these are preferences and cannot be guaranteed. Please ensure this is returned by Friday 15th January.

In the event of snow...

Snow may be on its way. Please note, that we will make a decision as early as we possibly can in the event of snow regarding any closures that might have to take place. Myself, Marian and many other team leaders live outside of Dorking and therefore, it may be likely we will have to make the decision to close for our own safety travelling in. Please keep checking our website www.dorkingnurserychildrenscentre.org.uk regularly as I will post a message on there. We will also send out a Parentmail message. You can also check the Surrey County Council schools website and listen to local Heart FM.

Staying safe

Please can I remind parents to ensure they hold their child's hand when they leave nursery, both from the doors and at the gate. We had a 'near miss' at the bottom of the drive just before the holidays, which could have been quite serious.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 13th Jan, 10th Feb, 9th March—Conversation Café (for EAL families), 9.30-10.30am—West Street

Friday 15th January—NURSERY ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

Thurs 21st January—9.15am—Woodland Adventures Parent Information Meeting

Jan 25th—29th—Dads and Grandads Week—more details to follow

Wednesday 27th Jan, 24th Feb, 23rd March, 10am-11am—Speech and Language Advice session—West Street

Thursday 4th Feb—Speech and Language Workshop times??

Saturday 6th Feb, 10am—12pm—Dads Group—Goodwyns Road site

Feb 3rd—Feb 8th—Woodland Adventures

Mon 15th—Fri 19th Feb—Half term

Tuesday 1st March—Parent Evening 7pm

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy



Parent Feedback response

Thank you to everyone for completing the induction feedback. We take your comments and responses very seriously and are grateful for you taking the time to tell us your thoughts.

- All parents found the information prior to starting useful and informative.
- 80% of parents attended our Open Afternoons and out of those parents they all agreed that it was a good opportunity for themselves and their child to see the setting and get to know the staff.
- 60% of parents attended the Welcome Evening in July. This was the first time we had run this event and we are planning to do it again this year.
- All parents found the home visit a useful part of the induction process.
- 100% agreed the settling in process worked well for their child and family.
- All parents have appreciated the time with their key person at the parent consultation meeting to discuss how their child has settled and the progress they are making. One parent said '*This was great and loved an insight into what my daughter does at nursery*'.

One parent commented on the settling in process, although they agreed the settling in process worked for their child, they found it was more difficult for them as parents. The comments being:-

- '*It would be useful to set parents' expectations about how long they might have to stay in nursery for the settling period*' and '*The settling period worked very well for my child, less well for us as parents with younger siblings to look after at the same time. We would have appreciated more guidance on the timescales involved and some input into the process to ensure that it worked for us as a family.*'

In response to this comment, we find this is the feedback we get most frequently and have worked hard over recent years to ensure the settling in process as explicit as possible for parents, however, do consider we still have more to do on this.

We do not have a 'one size fits all' policy on settling in and therefore never really know how your child, or even yourselves are going to react. We currently inform parents in our publications, prior to starting, on home visits and at our parents evening about the process and this is also information I share with parents when they come for new parent tours.

We will be looking at this in greater depth again during staff meetings to continue to find more ways to support parents with this information. If you have any suggestions, please do let us know, there will be some feedback forms by the door of 2-3s—so do please let us know what worked well and where we can improve.





Our Christmas raffle prizes were kindly donated by the following businesses:

Madame Tussauds/Zachary Williams' mum

Dorking Halls

Dorking Sports Centre

Cheeky Monkey Baby shop

Café Rouge

Amanda Johnson Reiki

Bits & Bobs Party Shop

Bocketts Farm

Boots the Chemist

Burgundy & Black Cafe

Calliope

S J Clear

Cook

Costa Coffee

Cummins

Dorking Flowers

Elaine's Florist

Edinburgh Woollen Mill

The Fig Tree

Fluffatorium

Fullers

Frith Pharmacy

Head for the Hills

The King's Arms

Marks & Spencer

Mullins Coffee Shop

Pets Corner

Random House/Simon Rhodes ex parent

Rush Hairdressers

Sainsburys

Shabby Chic

Too Many Cooks

The Vineyard wine shop

Viva Restaurant

Waitrose

Watermill Inn

Waterstones

Wow gallery

Wanda and Yago Henry's mum

Becky's dad

Donna Harwood-Duffy

Prathikina's family