



Newsletter

2-3s Nursery March 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are already at the Easter holidays and about to embark on the summer. Another term has flown by and lots of fun activities and learning are taking place each day in the nurseries.

Don't forget to follow and 'like' us on Facebook, both our 'Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre' page, as well as our 'Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre Fundraising' page! We are going to be updating these regularly, so it is a great way to keep informed.



Transition to 3-5s

Thank you to all of you who came along to the coffee morning earlier in the month regarding admissions to 3-5s. We will be having another coffee morning on Thursday 25th May, 9.15am. Joanna (3-5s Lead) and Tracey (2-3s Lead) will explain to you how we support and prepare your child for the transition to the 3-5s nursery. I will also write to you again with information about your key worker, home visit date, and start date in the autumn term.

We still have a few opportunities for your child to do additional morning sessions (Mon, Tues, Thur and Fri) in the summer term in preparation for 3-5s. Please talk to Tracey or Sarah if you are interested. There are also spaces for lunch club (apart from a Wednesday).



Fundraising galore!

Thanks to everyone for their amazing baking efforts in the Comic Relief Cake Sale last Friday. The children had an amazing day doing all sorts of 'red' themed activities. We also raised an amazing total of £168 which will be split between FOND and Comic Relief.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help sell the cakes on the stall.

You will also have noticed that FOND have a brand new logo! Thanks to everyone for casting their votes!

There will be one more fundraiser in the summer term (week beginning the 2nd May) - our sponsored event! More information to follow!





Save Nursery Schools!

This affects
400
maintained
nursery schools
nationwide

The government is planning to change the way it funds nursery education. The outlined funding proposals will not cover basic costs, let alone staffing with qualified teachers. That will leave nursery schools financially nonviable, forcing them to close.

Nursery School Campaign

You will remember in the last newsletter I drew your attention to the Save our Nursery Schools campaign and asked you to sign the petition. Overall, this petition now has 28,773 signatures in total, and 142 from the Mole Valley area. If you have not already signed it, please can I ask you to do so and share with your friends and family.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/171052>



In the last week, I have been very busy with this campaign. There was a news feature in the Surrey Mirror last week, titled 'Surrey Schools fear they will have to lay off teachers and possibly close by 2019'. The link is here if you have not read it; <http://www.surreymirror.co.uk/dorking-schools-to-possibly-lose-up-to-100-000-in-funding-by-2019/story-30205451-detail/story.html>

This article led to BBC Radio Surrey contacting me for an interview. The item aired on Friday 24th March, rather than Thursday 23rd March due to the events in Westminster. However, if you have not heard it, you can listen again on the BBC Surrey website. The interview is about 1 hour 12 minutes into the Breakfast Show. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04vj13h>

The Dorking Advertiser ran a similar story to the one in the Surrey Mirror, their headline was titled 'Head fears funding formula could force nursery to close'. All these news articles and headlines are very 'hard-hitting', however, in order to fight our cause for fairer funding, myself and the Governors are working hard to be proactive in this campaign rather than reacting when it is too late. This is also the case for our local primary and secondary schools who are also gaining momentum in this campaign.

Finally, myself and Sandy Horvath, (Chair of Governors) met with the Mole Valley MP, Sir Paul Beresford last Thursday. We shared our concerns with him and he listened to our fears. He was positive about supporting the Nursery and Children's Centre, and has asked me to send him further information which he will raise with the Cabinet Ministers. He also joined myself and Sandy on Tuesday at a meeting at the Palace of Westminster. I will keep you informed with regards to our campaign and ask that you keep supporting us, sign the petitions and spread the good word about what we do for the children.



(Left to right, Sandy Horvath (Chair of Governors), Donna (Headteacher), Sir Paul Beresford MP)



Mums and Grandmas Week

Following on from Mother's Day at the weekend, we want to thank all our mums and grandmas again! Thank you to all the mums and grandmas who have joined us this week. The children



(and staff!) have really enjoyed your company. The feedback has been brilliant, with one grandma saying that her granddaughter is 'very lucky to have a place at such a fabulous nursery giving her a great start' and another has told us to 'keep doing the excellent work!'



From the Nursery

Over the past term, many of the children have begun to develop friendships and explore what a 'friend' means. We have been supporting the children to really look and listen to each other, to understand their own and other feelings and to work out the best strategies to 'win friends and influence people!'

You could extend this at home by helping your children to recognise when they are cross, sad or happy and work out what made them feel that way. Try to empathise to your child what they do that makes you feel happy. It can be a challenging and emotional time when friendships begin by as one child said, with an arm slung across the shoulders of two children "It's ok, we can all be friends together!"

Staffing changes

There are some staffing changes taking place in the summer term in the 3-5s. Some of you will know the 3-5s staff from your elder children. Natasa has had an operation recently and will be requiring further treatment in the summer term. She will be taking some leave to receive her treatment and therefore not returning to the Nursery this school year.

Marian will also be leaving us in July. Marian has decided that after 38 (yes, 38!!) years of teaching, that she is going to hang up her pencil case and take the opportunity to spend quality time with her family. We will miss her dearly and wish her well for the future. Myself and the Governors have advertised for a new Nursery teacher for September 2017.

We also welcome a new volunteer to the 2-3s. Ian is joining us every week to work with the nursery staff and children. It is great to have a regular male role model in the nursery.

Looking forward

With the start of the summer term we hope to see some warmer, sunnier weather. Please remember as soon as it gets hotter to SLIP, SLAP SLOP! Slip on a t-short, slap on a hat and slop on some suncream! The garden can be a real suntrap and we want to keep your children safe while they have fun in the sun!

Save the date

The very last day of the summer term is our Family Picnic! There will not be any normal nursery sessions on this date. All the children come to nursery that day with you! The picnic will take place from 12.30pm - 2pm. More details to follow nearer the time.

Finally

Don't forget we break up this Friday for the Easter break. Let's hope the sun shines for us so we can make the most of being outside. Our Goodwyns Road site is open as usual for families to attend Stay and Play sessions (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 11.45am). Children aged 0-5 are welcome, but children aged 6 and above cannot attend. It will be closed on Good Friday (14th) and Easter Monday (17th). Both sites, including Nursery reopen on Tuesday 18th April.

Diary Dates

Please make a note of the following dates for your information:-

Tuesday 18th April - Nursery re opens

Tuesday 2nd May - Sponsored Week - more information to follow.

Monday 15th May - Woodland Adventures - take 2!

Thursday 25th May, 9.15am - Coffee morning - find out about transition to the 3-5s

Thursday 22nd June, 7pm - Welcome to the 3-5s Evening!

Friday 23rd June and Monday 26th June - INSET Day - Nursery closed

Friday 21st July - Last day of term - no normal nursery session - save the date - Family Picnic 12.30pm - 2pm - more details to follow.

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

Headteacher (head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk)

