



Newsletter



3-5s Nursery January 2019

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Dear parents and carers

Happy 2019 to you all, although the Christmas holidays seem like a distant memory. The children have all returned to nursery happily this term and have settled well.



Fri 15th Feb - break up for half term

Mon 18th - Fri 22nd Feb - Half term

Monday 25th Feb - Nursery opens

Friday 5th April - break up for Easter Holidays

Monday 8th April - Monday 22nd April -
Easter holidays

Tuesday 23rd April - Nursery opens

Fri 28th June - INSET Day - Nursery closed

Thursday 18th July - last day of Nursery
sessions

Friday 19th July - Leavers Picnic

*New dates added

Fundraising - Thanks to everyone for their fundraising efforts at the end of term. In total we raised £128 for Save the Children following their Christmas Jumper Day. The staff also helped this total and did a variety of fun activities on their staff night out!

The FOND Raffle also raised £464! We are just waiting to find out how much we raised for Phil the Bag and add this together for an Autumn term total! A massive thank you to all!

Admissions for School - For those of you with a child starting school in September, the admissions deadline for school closed last week, 15th January. You now have to be very patient and wait for your email! When you have accepted your child's place for September, we ask that you let us know so that we can begin the transition arrangements with your child's feeder school.

Car parking/dropping off - there continue to be a very small number of parents in the car park at the beginning and end of sessions and being dropped off by a family member

who is then waiting for them, or parking in the residents bays for the flats. Our car park is not big enough for this to happen and our spaces are reserved for families in our SEN unit or with a disabled permit. Please use alternative car parks when being dropped off and collected and walk the short distance to nursery.

Please do not park in Pets Corner as this is for their customers. We have had parents park there in the past who have received a fine.

Clothes - the weather has most certainly turned on us recently and the temperatures are low. Please can we remind you that our garden is open throughout the day to the children, therefore, they need to have warm coats, hats, scarves, gloves etc with them at all times. We also advise they are dressed for the cooler temperatures inside also.



Food - we have recently found food inside children's bags or pockets. Please can we remind parents that under no circumstances is food to be brought into the building. We have a large number of children with significant allergies, some of which are life threatening.

Lunches - if your child attends for the morning or afternoon only, don't forget about lunch club or our extended days. These are particularly good to support the transition to full days at 'big school'.

Termly reminders - don't forget your box of tissues to donate for this term - it really helps especially this time of year with all the sneezes!

We would also like to remind parents to make their £5 donation if they are able to which helps us to fund things like Forest School, the recent Zoolab visit, cooking resources and malleable resources such as playdough.

Dads and Grandads Week - Last week has been fabulous to see all the wonderful dads and grandads in Nursery sharing stories with the children. Research shows that children, particularly boys benefit enormously from men reading to them, and showing an interest in books. This has definitely been the case this week! Thank you to everyone who gave us their time.



Feedback from survey - thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our induction feedback in December. The feedback was extremely positive about our induction processes, showing that parents felt very well prepared and informed. There were some wonderful comments about the team and our nursery, such as 'Everything you do to ensure the children are settled and happy is much appreciated - you are an excellent team', 'Dorking nursery school gave me lots of

information and are always keeping me up to date on my daughters progress! I love this school', 'My daughter's key worker has been exceptionally wonderful really taking such good care of her. My daughter took a while to settle, the entire team were just fantastic. What incredible dedicated staff'.

Some parents gave us food for thought! We love having things to think about....

One parent commented that they felt their child's key person had been restricted on the register sofa during the first week. *As much as staff are assigned to an area of the Nursery for safety reasons, they are not 'stuck'. We continue to make sure they are responsive to the children who need them most. We will continue to make sure this is the case during settling in.*

Another parent did not feel they understood what happens at group time or the change in rooms for this. *Group time is an important part of our day, it is when we teach lots of life skills such as social skills, turn taking, listening and attention etc. The children are linked to a member of the team and a base for this - but we constantly think about where is the right place for them to be and who is the right adult for them to be with! The team are just making a display with photographs outside Pam's room to tell you more about Group Time.*

There was also a comment about the number of staff to children and how this seems to be not enough. *In a Maintained Nursery School, such as ours, we have qualified teachers on our staff team - the legal ratio is 1 adult to 13 children. We have a wealth of adults, and are often working at a 1:8 ratio rather than 1:13! Thanks to our Governors for supporting us with a staffing budget to do this.*

Children's Centre Consultation - Thank you so much to those who completed the consultation. The Surrey Cabinet will be meeting next week on the 29th January to make their decisions. I will communicate this to you when we know the outcome. Keep everything crossed for us.

Forest School - Take 2!

Our January Forest School visits have now come to an end.

We discovered the benefits of having lots of layers of clothing; it really does help to keep us warm which means we can all concentrate on having fun! The children were all eager to continue their Forest School journey; they were able to



recall the games and activities we experienced last time.

"The drumming game is a bit like musical statues, isn't it."

Hide and seek remains a firm favourite, with some children deciding they would like to be the seekers this time. They mirrored my lead, counted loudly and confidently and then gave the instruction "1, 2, 3, where are you?" Inevitably they were very quick to seek us all out! Some of the children explored the pond when it had a covering of ice, holding a piece up and looking through it, they observed "It looks just like a window!"

Someone was a little disappointed not to find hammer-head sharks in the water, but accepted this news. Bug hunting meant that the children could observe first hand exactly how a worm moves, some were brave enough to touch and even



hold a worm, one child held firmly onto Eleanor's hand which then gave him the courage to touch the worm with his other hand, he delighted in his bravery!

We made mud pies and potions after collecting and discovering lots of natural resources. The children added water and then stirred their creations; some of them waved their magic sticks and turned the adults into frogs, crocodiles, cats and dogs, not forgetting "A real rainbow dinosaur!" After the inevitable hot chocolate, Forest School came to an end with a nonsense song, using hazel drum sticks to beat a rhythm on the logs. We all had enormous fun and can't wait to visit again after half term. Thank you so much to all our volunteers, the children benefit so much from the additional support. Next time we are hoping to find frogspawn in our pond!

Zoolab - the children have recently had a treat! As Florence told me excitedly, 'the zoo is in our school, Donna!'

The children have been introduced to a variety of different animals this week and learnt all about them! Did you know they met:-



Brian the Giant African Land Snail who has 2 eyes, 2 noses, 1 foot and 1,000 teeth on his tongue!
Magnus the Millipede with 200 legs.

Felicia the Spider who we looked at because she is very delicate - she has 8 legs and 8 eyes!

Jess the Cockroach who Joshua discovered has no eyes and will eat everything - even wellie boots!

Citrus the Corn Snake who smells with her tongue and eats 2 mice every Saturday.

Anya the Rat who liked to climb up Joe's (from Zoolab) Christmas Tree, remove the baubles and hide them under the sofa!

Can you believe we learnt so much in one day!... one child said "I want to see a unicorn next!"



Late pick up - We have a number of families who are consistently late collecting their child at both 11.45am and 3.30pm. This not only has an impact on your child, often feeling somewhat unsettled when they are the last to leave, but the team also have meetings to attend as soon as the children go. Please make every effort to be on time at the end of the session.

Voice of the child - In the middle of Zoolab, James raised his arms above his head, high in the air before bringing them down dramatically stating; 'I am having such a good time!'

Regards
Donna Harwood-Duffy
Headteacher

National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



We are
D♥rking

