



# Newsletter

**3-5s Nursery January 2020**

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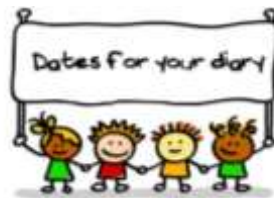


Dear parents and carers

We are now at the end of January, 3 weeks into the Spring term, although the weather is not feeling very spring-like at the moment. The children have all settled well back into the routines of nursery and we welcome 3 new families to Dorking Nursery also. Thank you to everyone who kindly gave the staff gifts at Christmas time, they are really appreciated. This half term at Dorking Nursery sees lots more exciting experiences for your children!

Nursery sessions are filling up and we have little availability for additional sessions or lunches at this stage. Please let us know if you would like to add additional sessions so we can check the availability. We are looking to staff a second sitting - so watch this space!

For those of you leaving us in the summer, you will have all done your application for primary school. You will be notified later in the term by Surrey County Council about the outcome. There will be lots of opportunities over the summer for us to support you with the transition to school.



**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** - Dads and Grandads Week

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February** -  $\frac{1}{2}$  term, Nursery closed

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February** - INSET DAY, Nursery closed - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** - Mums and Grandmas Week

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** - Nursery closed for Easter holidays

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April** - First day of term - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May** -  $\frac{1}{2}$  term, Nursery closed

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> June** - INSET Day - Nursery closed

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** - Family Picnic Day and last day of term

## Induction survey feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed the online survey to give us feedback about our induction, settling and first term processes. We are really grateful for the feedback as it helps us to continually improve how we work with families. All the families who responded were positive and we welcome your suggestions also!

You told us that :-

- 100% agree that the information received prior to starting was useful and informative
- 100% of those who attended the Open Afternoon strongly agree that it was a good opportunity to see the setting and the staff.
- 71% of those who responded attended the Open Evening in July.
- 100% agree that the Home Visit is a useful part of the settling in process
- All agree that the settling-in process worked well for their child and family
- 86% of those who responded have had their Parent Meeting this term and all agree that it has given them an insight into how well their child has settled and is progressing at Nursery

You also said some wonderful things about us:-

*Great nursery – superb staff – ...my child LOVES coming, and would gladly come Saturdays and Sundays if she could! When asked who her best friend is, it's not another child but her Key Worker! Thank you – everyone.*

*I cannot fault at all the settling in process. My son used to cry every day at his old nursery but he settled so quickly here and I'm sure much of it had to do with your settling in process. It gives children confidence and security, which is so important*

*Going to Dorking Nursery has had a very positive impact on my child, both educationally and socially. I'm very grateful she has had the opportunity to attend the nursery as I know it will be such a benefit to her in starting school. Thank you*

*We are so happy with the way our daughter NM has settled in. All of the staff are truly wonderful*

Your suggestions:-

Thank you to those of you who made suggestions! We have talked about these at length (as we do most things at Dorking Nursery) and are constantly looking at what else we can do. The suggestions raised were:-

- SEND admissions process - we will follow this up with Surrey County Council as the admission process for our SEND provision is not lead by our Governing Body.
- More Forest School - we love Forest School and would absolutely love to do more. We are already finding the 5 visits they have a challenge, both on staffing and volunteers, but also the impact it has back in the classroom with staffing removed from the ratios. We also have to be

careful that the Forest School does not get too much 'footfall' - otherwise there will be no forest to explore. Leave this one with us though, we will keep thinking!

- Feedback about eating at lunchtimes - again, we are thinking lots about this! Currently, a member of staff can have up to 7 children eating with them on their table, and this could well be not the same staff member that sees your child home, therefore - our policy of 'if you don't hear anything about how your child has eaten - assume this is positive' still stands. We do log and record the minority of children who do not eat, rather than the majority who do. We can also have up to 35 children to see home at the end of some sessions, therefore this would be a very congested pick up time.
- Style of Newsletters - watch this space!

### **Dads and Grandads Week**

Next week sees our Dads and Grandads Week at Nursery! Research shows that male role models have a significant impact on a child's progress and development, especially when it comes to reading. Please do encourage Dads and Grandads to come and spend some time in nursery with us next week, sharing stories and playing games.

And don't worry Mums and Grandmas, you are special too - there will be a time later in March for you to come into Nursery.

### **Forest School**

Last week the children in the 3-5s all enjoyed another visit to the Forest School with Joanna and the team. Once there, the children all recalled the games they played last time and were confident to hide in familiar and new places. They also played drumming games and moved to the beat the drum, they froze (literally) when there was silence.

The children looked at the pond which was frozen and listened to the sounds of sticks knocking on the thick ice!

The children also used natural resources to weave patterns and of course loved their special Forest School treat of hot chocolate and a snack!





## Zoolab

Last week, the children had a real treat with a visit from the Zoolab! This gave the children a chance to practice an all important life skill of taking a risk and going out of their comfort zone. During the session, each child listened carefully and learnt all about the animals, asking and answering questions. The children were brave to stroke the rat and snake. Some of them even held the snail and millipede. There was also a stick insect and a scorpion that changed colour under a special light! The children have been recording their visit back in the classroom using marks and drawings!



## Book Trust 'Helping your child become a reader' workshops!

We are working with the Book Trust to deliver a series of workshops to parents aimed at helping your child to become a reader. We have secured some free books and other resources for all the children, so do hope to see many of you there. Look out for the dates being advertised soon.



## Library

Albeit small and cosy, we have a range of children's books available in our library (near the entrance to the 3-5s Nursery) that you are welcome to borrow. There are library tickets in the books and all you need to do is pop the ticket into the slot on the wall with your child's name in!

On a personal note, I have a friend who is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro later this year to raise money to build a library in a school she has worked in, in Tanzania. The school is called Blue Tanzanite Primary School. If you are having a clear out at home and have any books that you do not need, please can you bring them in for me to pass on to her.



### Dropping off and collecting your child

From next week - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:-

Drop off - if you arrive before the start of the nursery session at 8.45am, you are welcome to wait in the library area from 8.30am.

At the end of the session - parents will be asked to wait outside the building or in the first entrance lobby until 11.40am when coming to collect their child. At present, the corridor is getting very congested and blocked at this time and is becoming a fire hazard. Therefore, the office will not be letting parents into the building before this time.

Don't forget the library is available in the morning between 8.30am and 10.45am, and will be closed to parents between 10.45am and 11.40am due to an end of morning group time activity taking place there.

We have had a few parents raise a concern at 3.30pm that other parents are leaving the gate open and allowing other children to walk through with them. Please can you ensure that you only allow your child to leave with you and close the gate behind you. There have been reports of children running straight down the path to the road. We had a 'near miss' last year - so please be vigilant.

We Are  
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#### #WeAre80

I know it is hard to believe, but our amazing nursery celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday during this school year. We are planning some exciting things to commemorate this and would love to hear from you if you, or someone you know came to Dorking Nursery - do you have any photos or special memories as we would love to share them! Please do get in touch if you do!



### Joanna's key children

If your child's key person is Joanna, you should have received a parentmail from me. Joanna will be absent from Nursery until after half term as she is going into hospital for an operation. Don't worry, she is fine and will be returning to us. During this time, Steph will be leading the 3-5s Nursery, so if you have any concerns please talk to her, or of course myself. Myself and Steph will be looking after Joanna's key children, and I will be doing the admin, Tapestry and paperwork for them during this time. I am sure you join me in wishing Joanna a speedy recovery.

Regards

Donna Harwood-Duffy  
Headteacher

National Support School  
designated by  
  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

