



Newsletter



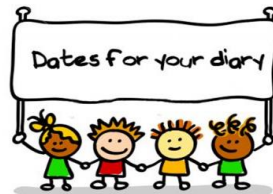
3-5s Nursery October 2019

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

Dear parents and carers

We are already in October and the term is well under way. The children have been settling well, thanks to you all for working with the team on this. I am sure you are proud of them and how well they are doing. Welcome to all our new families joining us this year. I aim to send out a newsletter once a month and try to fill it with all sorts of information you might need. Please read it carefully and take note of any dates. There are lots of 'start of term' reminders for you.

If you have not done so already and are on social media, you might want to follow one of our pages. We try really hard to communicate with parents and this is an easy way to do so. On Facebook and Twitter we are @DorkingNursery and on Instagram we are dnscc1234. (I will be honest, Instagram is not my chosen method, but I am trying hard!)



- Friday 25th October** - break up for $\frac{1}{2}$ term
- Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November** - $\frac{1}{2}$ term, Nursery closed.
- Monday 4th November** - Nursery re opens
- Friday 13th December** - Christmas Jumper Day (for Save the Children) and Family Sing-a-long
- Tuesday 17th December** - Christmas Party!
- Friday 20th December** - last day of term and pyjama day!
- Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January 2020** - Nursery closed for Christmas
- Monday 6th January** - INSET Day, Nursery closed
- Tuesday 7th January** - Nursery re opens
- Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February** - $\frac{1}{2}$ term, Nursery closed
- Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April** - Nursery closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 20th April** - INSET Day, Nursery closed
- Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May** - $\frac{1}{2}$ term, Nursery closed
- Fri 26th June** - INSET Day - Nursery closed
- Friday 17th July** - Family Picnic Day and last day of term

What's been happening at Nursery?

It has definitely been a busy few weeks, the children are all exploring their new environment and adapting to the routines! Here are just a few of the things they have been doing...



Steering the bikes with one hand! Building amazing towers! Experimenting speed with balls in a gutter! Writing and mark-making!

SAFETY FIRST

Ensuring the safety of your child is paramount. The following reminders are for your child's safety:-

Entrance gate - the black gate at the bottom of the drive must be closed at all times. Often, little ones can go running down the drive and this leads straight out into the entrance to the car park.

Doors - please be cautious when holding a door open for another parent. As we know, this is good manners, however, little ones can often run ahead or get caught up in legs and sneak through. Please be vigilant and if need be close the door carefully to ensure child safety and do not let another parent in.

Walking to the entrance gate from West Street - I have noticed recently that some families are arriving through the Pets Corner car park and then allowing their children to walk on the driveway to the black gate. It is vital that all families enter the drive from West Street within the silver railings adjacent to the Old House. I urge families to hold their child's hand at all times too.

Hot drinks and mobile phones - are not permitted inside the building. Please do not be offended if the office staff do not allow you through the door with a drink or talking on your phone.

Snacks and food - we have a number of children (and adults) with a variety of food allergies - some of which are life threatening. There are a number of parents allowing their children to arrive with a snack, or leave a snack in their child's peg in the cloakroom. There should be no food other than fruit being brought into the building.

Car parking/dropping off - there are a number of parents arriving 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 car park. 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. The other numbered spaces are



child
safety
is #1

for the residents at the Fire Station. Please use alternative car parks when being dropped off and collected and walk the short distance to nursery.

Coats, coats, coats - parents may not realise the amount of time their children spend outside when they are with us! They love exploring the environment outside, therefore, it is vital they have a named coat in Nursery each day - even if it looks sunny in the morning.

Change of clothes - please dress your child in comfortable flexible clothing. Elastic waists are best for young children to be independent. A change of clothes in your child's bag is vital.

Sickness - vomiting and diarrhoea! - not the nicest subject to discuss, however, it is vital that after any sickness bug (where your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, the Surrey policy is that your child does not return to Nursery until they have been clear of any symptoms for 48 hours. This is to stop the bugs spreading.

Earrings - there are a number of children wearing earrings to nursery. We ask that all earrings are removed during the day as the children will be running and climbing.

Dressing up clothes - please can we ask that children do not come to school in dressing up and fancy dress clothes. We have plenty at nursery for them to use and enjoy. We do not allow children to wear dressing up clothes when climbing in case of risk of accident, therefore this is difficult for us when they have worn them to nursery. Some children also get confused when we are asking them to remove their clothes at the end of the session when they see their friends wearing them still.

Sadly, our school budget is getting smaller each year. The large majority of the budget we are given by the local authority is spent on the wonderful staff at the Nursery and CC. Therefore, we rely heavily on donations and fundraising to enable us to provide the opportunities your child is experiencing.

**Thanks for
Donating!**

£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 Forest School, resources to make playdough, cooking, 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.

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



TAPESTRY

ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

If you are new to us, you will have recently received an automated email from TAPESTRY, asking you to set up your account. We are using Tapestry to share photographs and observations of your child with you. This is a secure site, where you need a log in to be able to access the account. You can also download an app to access it more easily on your smartphone. If you have not yet received your email, or been unsuccessful in activating your account, please let your key person know as we can easily reset it.

Staff are using iPods and iPads to take images of your child. I can assure you these are Nursery owned devices which do not leave the building. They are secure on our network. Although they may look like the staff are on phones and other devices, it would be a breach of their contract to do so. Your child's safety is paramount.

Timings of the day

Please make sure you know the start and finish time for your child. We have already had a number of parents who have been late to collect their child. The staff are timetabled for meetings, other duties and activities at the end of the sessions, therefore it impacts greatly if you are late.

If another adult is collecting your child, please let us know and ensure they have your password. Please note, if we do not hear from you, and passwords are not known, we will not be allowing your child to leave. Surrey policy states that if a child is not collected and we are unable to contact yourselves or your emergency contacts, the police and social services must be called.

Please can I remind you of the start times for sessions as children are arriving late which is extremely disruptive and impacts on their confidence and ability to form and create friendships:-

Morning session - 8.45am - 9.15am to arrive for register. **They will be marked as late if they arrive after 9.15am.**

If your child is with us all day, they may have a 9.30am start time, **they are marked as late if they arrive after 9.45am.**

Afternoon session - 12.30pm - 12.45pm. **They are marked as late if they arrive after 12.45pm.**

It is so important that the children establish good, regular routines and arrive on time, and any child having a lunch must be with us or the office informed by 9.30am so it can be ordered.

School open days

Although it might seem very soon in the school year, the Admissions window to submit a primary school application for your child will open soon. Local schools are hosting Open Mornings over the coming weeks, and I would urge you all to go and look at the schools you are considering for your child. Choosing a school is like buying a house - it needs to 'feel right' for you as a family, therefore, listening to the gossip of others and relying on hearsay are not the right way to make this important decision. We are more than happy to advise you with regard to the admissions process and can also help you to complete the form, however, we are not able to advise on the school choice for you. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2020 and as soon as I have dates of the Open Days, I will share that with you.



If your child has SEND or is in our SEND provision - EI and the team can talk to you about the admissions process for your child.

Lunchtimes and extended day

If your child attends for a morning or afternoon session, you may extend your child session to include lunchclub or the morning/afternoon session. There are costs involved in these sessions, which Sarah in the office can advise you on. Please note, children cannot extend their session until they are settled in their core hours. Don't forget to let us know if your working situation changes and you think you might be eligible for the 30 hour offer.

If you have any questions to ask us please talk to your key person or another member of staff!

Regards
Donna Harwood-Duffy
Headteacher

National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

