



Newsletter

Dorking Nursery September 2020

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

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to the school year 2020-21, we are now in our third week of the term and already it is proving successful in a variety of ways. The majority of our children have now started this term and we are thrilled at how well they are settling in and getting to know staff, routines and showing independence and confidence in their new environments. As a staff, we are loving having the school busy and full with children again, as it has not been like this since March. The sound of children having fun learning in their environments is fabulous! Please do not worry if your child is not settling as well as you think they would, or as well as you see other children. Each child is on their own special journey and we will tailor the settling in experience for each of you to make it successful and as 'tear-free' as possible.

I had hoped this academic year would run more smoothly than the last, however the impact of Covid-19 continues to have an effect on us all. We are constantly reviewing the processes we have got in place and will continue to do so. This may mean changes to the way we work, but is crucial in order to adhere to the latest government guidelines and keep everyone as safe as possible. I do appreciate this may be frustrating for you as a parent.

Please read this Newsletter carefully, it contains lots of useful reminders and information. The easiest way to communicate and get information to you is with our PMX Parentmail system - if you have not been receiving messages from us in this way, please let us know so we can check we have the correct details on file for you and support you to activate your account if necessary.



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



Important Dates: -

Friday 23rd October - break up for $\frac{1}{2}$ term

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October - $\frac{1}{2}$ term, Nursery closed.

Monday 2nd November - Nursery re opens

Friday 18th December - last day of term and pyjama day!

Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January 2021 - Nursery closed for Christmas

Monday 4th January - Nursery re opens

All term dates are available on our website, we follow the Surrey term dates -

<https://www.dorkingnurserychildrenscentre.org.uk/term-dates>

USEFUL REMINDERS...

SAFETY FIRST

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



child
safety
is #1

Entrance gate - the black gate at the bottom of our drive is the entrance point for all families, regardless of which part of the nursery their child is in. This is part of our one way system to support social distancing. After you have dropped off or collected your child, you need to exit, continuing the one way system along the path parallel to our building and exit using the car park steps or slope. Please ensure that you hold your child's hand at all times and keep them with you.

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.

Hot drinks and mobile phones - are not permitted inside the building. Please do not be offended if the staff do not allow you through the door with a drink or while 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 SEND unit or with a permit. The other numbered spaces are for the residents at the Fire Station flats. Please use alternative car parks when dropping off and collecting your child and walk the short distance to nursery.

Dressing appropriately - parents may not realise the amount of time their children spend outside when they are with us and we are maximising the outdoor spaces we have even more at present for good ventilation. They love exploring the environment outside, therefore, it is vital they are dressed for the weather each day, with lots of layers if needed. It is also worth remembering that on colder days we will still have windows and doors open to help ventilation indoors so layers are ideal. Sun hats and ensuring your child has got sunscreen on are all important at this time of year too.

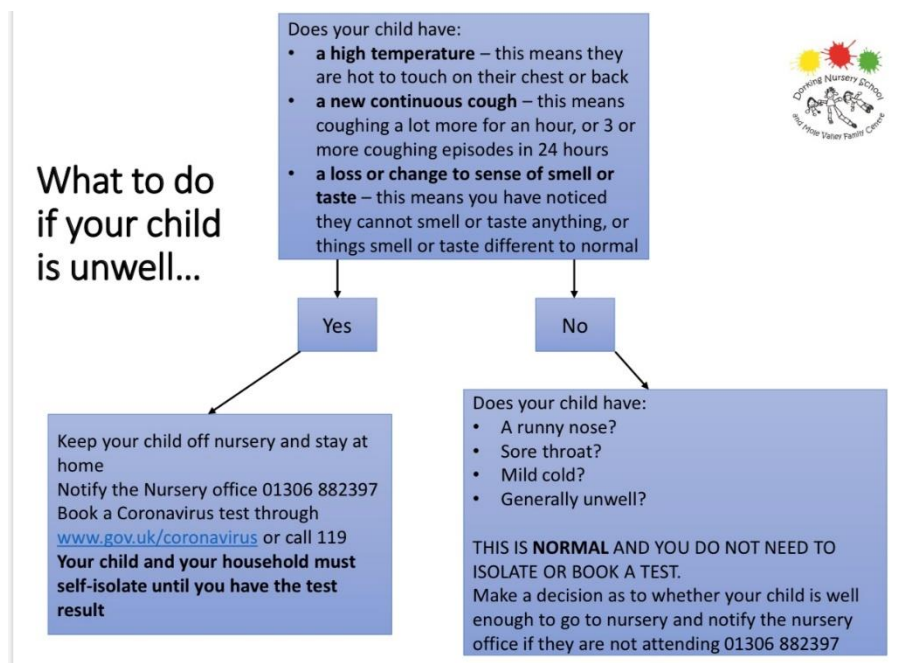
Elastic waisted clothing is also ideal for young children to be independent when using the bathroom. Please ensure we have enough nappies if your child needs them, and also spare clothes in their bag, so that they can be changed into their own things if they have an accident or get wet having fun!

Sensible footwear is a must, the children will be active and spending time climbing and moving around outside. Crocs, sandals and other open toed shoes are not to be worn, trainers are ideal. Our Health and Safety Policy also does not allow for earrings or jewellery to be worn, as this can also get caught when climbing, running or dressing up.

Illness and absence - this is a subject that is talked about frequently at the moment. We follow the PHE guidance at all times with regards to all childhood illnesses, as well as the incubation periods for them.

Your child will get poorly; colds, runny noses, sore throats, sickness and diarrhoea are all viruses that children will develop that help them to build up their immunity and stay healthy. However, at the moment, we have to be cautious when your child has the Covid-19 symptoms.

If at any time your child or someone in your household has a high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell, your household must begin a self isolation period and request a Covid-19 test for the symptomatic person. We do appreciate there are issues nationally with booking and requesting kits which will impact on you/your child getting a result, however, we have to ensure the rules are adhered to in order to keep everyone safe. We are still having parents who are surprised when we ask them to isolate and book a test if their child has a temperature. Please follow the flow chart sent home to you last week via PMX.



Covid-19 will be with us for sometime and we will continue to do as much as possible to ensure consistency for your family and children, however, we also have contingency plans in place should another national or local lockdown take place. We do appreciate the disruption this will cause and we will do everything we can to keep this to a minimum.

As part of our continuity planning, in the event of another local/national lockdown we may be required to provide an offer for our vulnerable children and those of critical workers. Therefore, we need to gather this information from you, so that we can react quickly in such an event. A very short online form will be sent home to you via PMX later this week, it is important all families complete this information.

The office have also recently sent out an online Declaration Form for you to complete if your child accesses their 2, 3 or 4 year old funding with us. Please complete this so that we can claim your funding.

Donations

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 woodland, resources to make playdough, daily snacks, 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. You can make this donation in cash, in a named sealed envelope or via BACS

A/C name: Dorking Nursery School
Sort code: 40-19-22
A/C number: 51209752
Address of bank: HSBC, Dorking, RH4 1BW

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

Fruit - we also ask for you to donate some fruit which is then shared at snacktimes.



If you are new to us, you will have recently received an automated email from TAPESTRY, asking you to set up your account. We use 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, please check your junk/spam folder as it often goes in there. If you have 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 secure devices. Although it 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. There is a significant impact if you are late to collect your 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.

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 be open from **2nd November 2020 to 15th January 2021**.

The local schools are looking at ways to hold Virtual Tours or other Open sessions with you, please do not worry that they may not yet be advertised. Headteachers are working hard to ensure the safety of their children, staff and visitors to manage this process. 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 2021** and if I get any more information from local Headteachers, I will share this with you.



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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

Lots of parents have asked about our lunch club and extended day sessions if your child attends for a morning or afternoon session. Please be patient with us while we settle the children attending for 30 hours before we extend our lunches to others. There are costs involved in these sessions, which we 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.

Ordering lunches

We have moved our lunch provider this year to a company called Zebedees. We order lunches on a Thursday lunchtime for the forthcoming week, therefore, we need to know any changes in advance. They do cater for a variety of alternative diets if your child needs one, please talk to us and we can give you more information.

Parent meetings

Over the coming weeks, parents will receive an invitation to have a short meeting with their key person to discuss how their child is settling. It is very challenging to release staff from the classroom to have these meetings so if you are able to attend at the suggested time/day it would be much appreciated.

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

