



Newsletter - Spring Term 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't quite believe half term is almost upon us! The evenings are beginning to get lighter and spring is on the horizon. The last five weeks of this term have flown by since the Christmas break and we will soon be on the countdown to summer. The last five weeks have been jam packed at Dorking Nursery, with learning spring, Chinese New Year and for most children, a visit to our Woodland Forest School. There are images throughout this newsletter from the recent visits to our Woodland Forest School in the 2-3s and 3-5s!

Thank you to those of you who completed the feedback survey that we sent out in January. Almost half of our families gave us feedback, which we really appreciated. The results will be compiled and shared with you. Admissions for places for September 2023 has now closed (deadline was 15th January). For those of you who will be with us in September, we will be writing to you after half term with details of your child's place with us. If your child is off to Primary School in September, Surrey

will notify you on 17th April with your outcome. If your child has additional needs and is awaiting a specialist provision, the local authority will be in touch.

There are a lot of updates and reminders in this newsletter, so do read it carefully and make a note of all the dates.

If at any time you need to talk to your child's key person, please talk to the member of staff on the gate. We can either pass on a message or make arrangements for a meeting. Alternatively, email the office admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk or call us on 01306 882397 and leave a message for the member of staff.

Don't forget to follow us on social media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - you can search for us @dorkingnurseryschool.



Key dates for the term ahead!

- **Friday 10th February 2023**, 9.15am - FOND Catch up and Make do and Mend Coffee morning - textiles!
- **Friday 10th February 2023** - Last day of the half term
- **Monday 13th February 2023 - Friday 17th February** - School closed for half term break
- **Monday 20th February 2023** - School reopens as normal

- **Tuesday 21st February 2023** - Pancake Day - see update from FOND
- **Wednesday 22nd February 2023** - Bag2School - see update from FOND
- **Wednesday 22nd February 2023** - Emotion Coaching course for parents begins - see separate email from El Davis
- **Monday 27th February 2023** - Book Week (World Book Day is Thursday 2nd March) - look out for more information about this themed week
- **Thursday 9th March 2023** - 2-3s Coffee Morning 9.30am
- **Friday 10th March 2023** - donations for FOND Spring Raffle
- **Monday 13th March - Friday 25th March 2023** - Raffle tickets on sale for Spring Raffle - see FOND update
- **Monday 13th March 2023** - Help your child love maths workshop for parents - 9am -10am or 2pm - 3pm - see more details below
- **Monday 13th March - Friday 17th March** - Mum and Grandmas Week - more details to follow
- **Friday 17th March 2023** - Red Nose Day - more details to follow
- **Wednesday 22nd March 2023** - 3-5s Coffee and Catch up - 9.15am or 2.30pm
- **Friday 31st March 2023** - Last day of spring term
- **Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April 2023** - Easter holidays, school closed
- **Monday 17th April 2023** - School reopens as normal
- **Monday 8th May 2023** - Additional Bank Holiday for King Charles Coronation

More dates and news can be found on our website ¹ or on our Facebook Page² or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website³.

¹<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

²<https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

³<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2021>



Reminders

Absence - If for any reason your child is going to be absent, please call as early as possible, ideally before 9.30am. It is part of our safeguarding policy that all absences are logged. We will always ask a reason for absence, this is important for us to monitor and inform others of any transmittable illnesses, such as sickness bugs, chicken pox and Covid. Please call for each day of absence, unless you know the date of return, e.g. self isolating / sickness for 48 hours.

Please note, if you have given your child calpol, or any other pain relief, we will kindly ask you to keep your child at home. If they have had to be given medicine, they are not well enough for nursery, therefore, need to remain off school. Calpol and other pain relief medicines can mask other symptoms, so please do not give them medication and send them into nursery.

Parking - Thank you to everyone for their support with parking recently and for respecting the onsite parking for our families of children with additional needs. For those of you who have permits, we do appreciate it may be busy at drop off in the mornings, we have 6 spaces but have over 20 families in need of them, so please be patient.

If you have been issued a permit, please can we ask that you display the permit at all times. There will be occasions where members of staff are monitoring the spaces to ensure the right people are using them at any time.

Change of address/telephone numbers - please keep us updated if you move house or contact numbers change. We need to be able to get hold of you in an emergency, so please do let us know if your details change, this includes email addresses, residential addresses and telephone numbers.

Payments for sessions/lunch - if you pay for any sessions, this includes lunch, late pick up, 2 year old sessions, extended days, etc, please check your School Money account regularly to check your

current payments that are due. As per our terms and conditions we ask that payments are made in advance. Where outstanding payments are not made, we may have to give notice on sessions.

End of session times - there have been many occasions recently where parents and carers have been significantly late to collect their child without reason. Staff are either on breaks, allocated to do a lunch duty or attend meetings as soon as sessions end, therefore, late arrival at the end of sessions does have an impact on the smooth running of the school. Other settings charge a late collection fee which we currently do not, however, this may be a charge we need to enforce if this continues. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Tissues - we kindly ask for a donation of a box of tissues to help our supplies.

£5 termly donation - if you are able to make a termly donation to support the ongoing costs of resources for your child, such as snacks, resources to make playdough, etc, please do so through School Money.

Code of conduct - as a Surrey County Council Maintained School, we need to ensure that Dorking Nursery School remains a safe place for children, staff and the community. Please note that abusive or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated and this could result in such persons being barred from the site.

Financial support - Surrey County Council have published their Cost of Living Directory of Support - if you would like to read more, please visit the SCC website for more information - cost of living directory.pdf (newsweaver.co.uk)⁴



⁴[https://surreycountycouncil.newsweaver.co.uk/icfiles/1/31744/182987/6883466/0eb8c3d0d2474d9f7d309c57/cost of living directory.pdf](https://surreycountycouncil.newsweaver.co.uk/icfiles/1/31744/182987/6883466/0eb8c3d0d2474d9f7d309c57/cost%20of%20living%20directory.pdf)

Welcome to new staff

This term we have welcomed five new staff to our amazing team!

Lisa - Lisa joins the team in the 3-5s as a key person/teacher. Lisa has taught in other Surrey schools and has a wealth of experience teaching both in the early years and primary age range.

We also welcome **Hannah, Bryony, Sian** and **Erika** to our Nursery Assistant teams across the entire school bringing a range of experience and knowledge to support our children.

Help Your Child Love Maths - Workshop for Parents



Financial literacy is very topical at the moment and on all our minds. This month, as a staff we have been thinking about maths and all the wonderful opportunities we provide for your children in nursery to enable them to be mathematicians - being great at maths is not about counting to 10! We have been thinking about how maths is everywhere in the school and developing mathematical vocabulary.

We have been offered a great opportunity to host a free workshop for parents on Monday 13th March, called Help Your Child Love Maths! The session will run twice from 9am - 10am or from 2pm - 3pm, please do come along to find out more about how you can help your child.

Help Your Child Love Maths - Learn how to support your children to develop positive attitudes towards maths

- As you may be aware, the school is working with the charity National Numeracy to encourage families to do maths together.
- We know that maths can sometimes seem daunting, but engaging positively with children's learning can make a big difference to both children's and parents' confidence with numbers.
- Therefore, we are inviting all parents/carers to a unique workshop run by National Numeracy which will be held at the school on Monday 13th March 9am - 10am or 2pm - 3pm.
- The workshop is not a maths lesson, nor does it teach any maths, but is focused on fostering positive attitudes towards numeracy and tips for ensuring your children develop these too.
- The session will cover the importance of maths in the real world, being positive about maths, promoting a growth mindset and how to boost your own number skills as an adult.

After school on that day, the staff are invited to a session - Numeracy: Busting myths and challenging mindsets.



FOND



Our amazing FOND team have been busy behind the scenes to plan some marvellous fundraising activities for the school.

An email was sent earlier this week with information for the forthcoming November events:-

- Friday 10th February - Make do and mend coffee morning. In these tricky times, it is important to use the resources we have, therefore, we are hosting a coffee morning for parents to come along and help mend some dressing up and other textiles for the nursery

while getting to know other parents. If you have anything that needs sewing - do bring it along!

- Tuesday 21st February - Pancake Jar sale
- Weds 22nd February - Bags2School - have a good old clear out during half term and send in your bags for collection.
- Friday 10th March - Spring raffle donations

See flyer below!

FOND have a Facebook page which they keep up to date - if you are on social media, please 'like' and 'follow' them. They can also be contacted at fond@dorking.surrey.sch.uk⁵.



Final note

Finally, thank you for all your continued support! If you have any comments, questions or queries, please contact the office.

Regards

Donna

Executive Headteacher

⁵<mailto:fond@dorking.surrey.sch.uk>

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