



# Newsletter

3-5s Nursery February 2017



Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre, West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BY  
Tel: 01306 882397/admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a wonderful half term break and were able to enjoy the wintery sun! We are now half way through the academic year which seems to have gone very quickly!

As always - there is lots to catch up on in this months newsletter! One of the most exciting things to share is that we have moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Jack's mum (2-3s), Kathy has helped us to set up a Facebook account, one for the Nursery and Children's Centre and one for FOND! We will use these platforms alongside the website, newsletters and parentmail to give you updates. If you have not already 'liked' our page, please find us to do so!



## How to extend your nursery session

A few parents have asked recently how they can extend their Nursery session above their 15 hours free entitlement. There are a few options you can do:-

1. Lunchclub - this is available for children who come in the morning to stay until 12.30pm, or for children who come in the afternoon to arrive at 11.40am. The cost of this session is £7.95 per day and includes a hot school meal.
2. Extended day - this basically means you can buy the half of the day that your child does not normally attend. For example, if they usually come in the morning, you can extend their session to include lunchclub and the afternoon session. If they usually come in the afternoon, you can extend their session to include the morning and lunch session. The daily charge for this is £25.50.

Any of these sessions can be bought on a one-off or a regular session. Please note, our terms and conditions apply. If you are interested, please speak to Marian, Joanna or Sarah in the office.

## Nursery School Campaign

You may have seen on our website, or in the press, lots of reports linked to the future funding of Nursery Schools. The way that we are being funded by the Government in the future is changing, and this could impact on what we can provide for your children.

You can help, please sign the national petition <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/171052> and ask your friends and family to do the same. I am currently attending a variety of meetings at Westminster to support this. Myself and the Governors have written to our local Councillors and MP to gain their support and backing. Watch this space...I may be asking you to do the same!

To find out more, look at the news article on the website.



## Save Nursery Schools!

This affects  
**400**  
maintained  
nursery schools  
nationwide

The government is planning to change the way it funds nursery education. The outlined funding proposals will not cover basic costs, let alone staffing with qualified teachers. That will leave nursery schools financially nonviable, forcing them to close.

## Dads Week

Thank you to all our lovely Dads and Grandads who gave up their time to come in and spend time with the children during Dads Week. The children love having male role models in Nursery and learn so much from these experiences. The Dads really enjoyed themselves too...infact, one or two of them had a little too much fun! Once again, thank you to those who came in to help out!



## Anne's Book Launch!

Did you realise we have a published author on our staff? Anne, who works in our Language Unit has put together a book of her late mother's poetry as a fundraiser for Parkinsons. The book, *An Ode to Joan Baker* is launching at Dorking Library on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm-4pm. If you are available on this day, I know Anne would love to see you and be grateful for your support. If you would like to know more, please ask Anne. Well done Anne, we are very proud of you.

FREE Book Launch at Dorking Library

**An Odd Ode**  
Joan Baker



Book the baby sitter!

Meet us at

**RED**

bar & lounge

and get to know each  
other a bit better!

**Want to meet other parents?**

Join FOND on  
Thursday, 23rd February at 8pm  
(FOND Committee Meeting @ 7pm - all are welcome!)

### Fundraising

FOND continue to work hard behind the scenes to raise money for the children. They are meeting on Thursday at Red to plan future events. Join them from 7pm if you want to help out, if not meet them from 8pm to get to know new faces!

Have you joined the Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre Fundraising page on Facebook - if not, look them up and hit 'like'.

FOND are also looking to update their logo to be 'similar' but different from the Nursey one. If you haven't voted yet, you can on Facebook or in the voting box in the front office.

FOND have also set up an account on **The Giving Machine**. It is a way of generating FREE donations when you shop online from hundreds of major retailers (incl. Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Ocado, Next, Argos...). Each time you shop, a donation is made to us. To find out more and set up an account, visit [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk).



**The Giving  
Machine™**

### What's on at the Children's Centre

Don't forget, you can access our adult learning courses in our Children's Centre, either here at West Street or on our Goodwyns Road site.

To find out what is on, visit the website or look out for posters and fliers advertising courses. To book onto any courses, just speak to Becky in the office.

We also run Post-natal and Baby Massage courses throughout the year, if you are a new parent, please enquire at the office.

This Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Job Centre Plus are holding an information event at St Johns Primary School from 10am. Lots of information will be available about going back to work, training courses, volunteering, confidence building and writing CVs etc.

Crawling to Cruising - Soft Play for the Under 2s. If you have an under 2 and you would like to do this session with them, it takes place each Tuesday from 2pm - 2.45pm and costs £2 per session. You can book weekly to attend at the office.

## Parents Evening

Have you wondered what you can do to help your child to learn to read and write? To coincide with National Book Week and World Book Day, come along and join the team on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm. The Nursery will be open from 7-7.30pm for you to see the activities your child accesses during their session. From 7.30pm, the team will share examples of how your child will learn to read and write and what you can do to help at home.

## Inspirations Dorking

The Grange is a local charity which provides high quality housing and training opportunities for adults with disabilities. They have a shop called Inspirations in Lyons Court in Dorking. The shop has crafts specially designed by people with disabilities. Check out their website or pop in to see what is on offer <http://www.grangecentre.org.uk/>.



## Zoolab

As always, the children loved their Zoolab experience, learning all about a wide variety of different animals, touching and stroking them and getting the chance to hold some of them, too. Joe told us that he brought all of his animals this year, from geckos and tree frogs to a snake and a tarantula. The children were particularly fascinated when they watched the giant millipede

running across the floor; those who wanted to hold it could feel the tickly feet creeping across their hands. There was a mixed reaction to the snake but many children were able to touch it and feel that it was warm and not at all slimy.



This has inspired the children so much they are mixing up their words. Last week, Rufus was passing Max a nail in the woodwork area - he



turned to Marian and said, 'wait one minute, I am just passing him the snails!'



### How to help at home

Following the zoolab visit, our children are "animal mad!" The most popular small world toys are lions and tigers and some children are fascinated by cats; stories, pictures and of course becoming cats themselves.

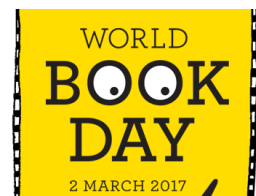
Why not talk to your child and find out how you can support and develop this interest? If you have a pet in your family, include your child in the day to day jobs, such as feeding or exercising them. If you don't have animals, why not visit friends or wider family members who do?

It's fun to pop in to the Pet Shop and look at the animals or visit somewhere where they can watch animals in the wild, such as the lake at the park. Point out birds making nests, carrying twigs or listen to the birds early in the morning outside your window. Visit the library to find some animal information books or stories.

Do remember the Learning at home sheets which you can fill in at home and bring in for your child to share with us at group time.

### Book Week

Next week is Book Week! The children will be experiencing all sorts of activities linked to stories and books. Look out for a new role play area and there could even be another star show for the children (as the sequel to the Nativity) - ask your children next week.



We also invite them to bring their favourite book into Nursery for us to share throughout the session and at group times - please ensure these are named.

Finally, is your child a member of Dorking Library? It is free to join and they have lots of wonderful activities. Why not go and share books, if you do, send us a photograph of your child at the library! Send your photos to Becky in the office at [reception@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:reception@dorking.surrey.sch.uk). We will print these out to share with your children at Nursery.

### Diary Dates

Please make a note of the following dates for your information:-

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - 10am JCP Meeting at St Johns Primary School

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - 7pm FOND Meeting in Red/8pm drinks

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Book Week

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February - Helping your child to be a reader and writer Parent Evening from 7pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - break up for Easter

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Nursery re opens

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

Headteacher ([head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk))

