



# Newsletter

3-5s Nursery November 2016



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

My apologies this November newsletter is getting to you half way through the month, I had every intention to get it to you on the first, so I am not sure where the time has gone.

I hope you have all received the Parentmail with information about the chimney works taking place over the next couple of weeks, starting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. This is vital to ensure the ongoing safety of our building. The scaffolding will be put up over the weekend and will be in place until approximately the 28<sup>th</sup>. This may make the entrance to the building more difficult to those of you with buggies and pushchairs, however, I do ask for your cooperation during this time.

I also ask those of you with parking permits to consider other alternative local parking arrangements during this period so that we can prioritise the parking bays for our taxi and the contractors vehicles.

## Health and safety

While I am on the subject of Health and Safety - a few general reminders for all!

Car park - Including the next fortnight, please remember the car park is only for families with a valid permit for our car park and for our taxis. There continues to be a couple of parents who are abusing this and using our spaces or the ones at Pets Corner. Pets Corner have issued parking fines previously to our parents using the spaces to drop off their children.

Holding open gates/doors - we appreciate how respectful it is to hold doors and gates open for others, however, this does pose a health and safety risk if a child is running ahead of their parents. Please can we ask that you close all gates/doors behind you, and please do not latch open any gates. Also, can we ask you not to open the garden door if the latch is on as this means that there is not a member of staff outside at this time and as soon as they go out, they unlatch the door. Ideally, we ask that you hold your child's hand at all times when leaving the nursery.



Dogs - Following on from the last newsletter where I wrote about dogs on the premises, I thought I should let you know about one special dog who does visit us incase you get confused. The children in our SEN Centres have a weekly visit from Kevin and his dog, Dexter. Kevin works for the Mole Valley Youth Service within the Pets As Therapy (PAT) programme. Dexter has been assessed by the PAT dog organisation, as having a calm and gentle nature and so to be suitable to take part in this activity. For the child whose speech is delayed, the non-verbal communication between them and the dog is wonderful to observe. As the year progresses

the children gain confidence to give verbal commands to Dexter, to find a toy that they have hidden or fetch a ball that they throw. The relationship that builds up between the children and Dexter is a delight to observe.



### Thank you for the music!

Many thanks to the team at Skipton Building Society who recently donated a new CD player to the children at the Nursery. Nicky Derbyshire, who works at Skipton, came to present this to the children! Thank you very much, it will be used regularly by the children!



### Primary School Open Days

I know that thinking about your child starting at Primary School might seem like it is a long way off. However, Admissions closes in January. The Primary Admission deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January. Applications are completed on line. If you need any help or support with this, please do not hesitate to ask us. Sarah is happy to support parents to complete their forms. I urge parents to have a look at the surrounding schools, or those closest to your home. I feel that choosing a school for your child is like buying a house or a new pair of shoes - you have to experience it for yourself rather than listening to the opinions of others, you need to step inside to get a feel if it feels right for you. From previous years of supporting our families with admissions to school, I also urge that all parents submit one school choice that is a realistic one, ie, accessible to your home. In the past we have had parents make choices that are unrealistic and then be very disappointed when notifications come out. This also applies to Pam and Anne's families in the SEN unit. You must complete a mainstream school application regardless of their needs at this stage, this works as a 'back up' for you in addition to the SEN provision and specialist places which are administered differently at panel. Please speak to Pam, Anne, Charlotte or myself if you are unsure about this.

### Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes, bought cakes and gave up some time to sell cakes in our cake sale before half term. We raised a total of £140!

Have you registered your 10 votes for us yet with our Aviva Bid? We currently have 785 votes. Looking at other projects bidding for the community fund, they have over 3,000! Please vote and ask your friends and family to do so!

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-1239> .

**Cast your vote!**

The Dorking Nursery and Children's Centre needs your support! We've applied for an AVIVA Community Fund grant of £1000 to update our antiquated IT resources.

Most of our children understand how to use computers and mobile devices, and we find many are swiping and touching our computer screens.

Please register and vote for our project on the AVIVA website.

Every year we hold a Christmas raffle where there will be a hamper full of wonderful items donated by local businesses as lots of other wonderful prizes This year we will hold our Christmas raffle with a twist! We would like to also collect canned goods for the local food bank. Would you be able to donate canned goods in addition to buying your raffle ticket? Tickets cost £1 a ticket.

We will have two hampers this year, one hosted at the Goodwyns Road site and one at the West Street site. Tickets go on sale Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December. We will draw the winners of the hampers on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. They will be available for collection until end of term, 21<sup>st</sup> December. All proceeds will go directly to the Nursery and Children's Centre.

Thank you for your support!

Kathy & Emma  
(FOND Representatives)

### **Governors**

You will know from previous letters that we are looking for Parent Governors to join our Governing Body. We have had one parent, Kathy (Jack's mum in 2-3s) who has volunteered, however still need one more. Let me know if you are interested.

### **Voice of the child**

Trystan was fascinated this week with the frost on the leaves in the garden. He found Joanna in the garden and he was carrying a sycamore leaf covered in frost. "Look" he said; Joanna asked what it was on the leaf, to which he replied "oh...it's been goldened!"

### **Sharing learning**

To the left of the Home Learning Board in the library, you will have noticed a new display.

In response to your enquiries about what the children have been doing, we are now putting up a few pictures each week which will give a flavour of some of the exciting experiences and activities that have been happening.

We are collating these in a book, which you can find in the library. Please look at this with your child if you have a few minutes to spare. It is really good for the children to talk in detail about what they have been doing at Nursery and share their ideas and feelings with you. We have found that the pictures prompt these discussions and help the children to remember their experiences.

Please don't forget to keep bringing in the Learning at Home sheets for us to share at group times.

These are all ways to promote and strengthen the partnership between home and nursery which is such an important way to support your child's learning and development.

### **Attendance**

As a school run nursery, we monitor attendance very closely, particularly for those children accessing our priority full time places. We ask you to notify us each day if your child is absent, or the office will make contact with you. This is part of our Attendance and Safeguarding Policy. If children accessing our priority places are persistently absent, the Governing Body has a duty to reconsider places or even withdraw them.

### **Adhoc extended days and lunch club**

Don't forget, your child can do adhoc extended days and lunch clubs if you need an extra bit of child-free time to do your Christmas shopping. We also have spaces for regular extended and lunch sessions - speak to Joanna or Sarah if you are interested.

### **Parent Evening**

Have you ever wondered what your child gets up to all day at Nursery? Now is your chance to find out. We are holding a Parent Evening on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 7pm. From 7-7.30pm the nursery will be open for you to look around, talk to staff and see the environment without the normal hustle and bustle.

From 7.30pm - Tracey, Joanna and Marian will share examples of the children's adventures at nursery!

Why not join us for a child free hour and a glass of wine!

## Diary Dates

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

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November** - Forest School Week 1 (if your child is participating in this week, you will receive a separate letter)

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - FOND Meeting

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - 3-5s Sing-a-long - more details to follow with timings

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - 3-5s Party Day - more details to follow nearer the time

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** - Last day of term and 3-5s Pyjama day!

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** - Nursery closed for Christmas break

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - INSET Day - Nursery closed for staff training

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** - Start of term for nursery

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

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

