



Newsletter

3-5s Nursery December 2016

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



Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are already preparing for the festive season ahead! Time definitely does fly when you are having fun. Thank you to everyone for being so patient during the recent chimney restoration works on the roof. The chimney has been capped and we have been informed by Surrey that this is just phase one of a whole roof restoration, so there will be more disruption to come. We will of course keep you informed at every stage.

Now that your children have spent a term with us, we really want your feedback on our induction process. We welcome all feedback, both positive and constructive as this helps us plan our processes for the future. You will receive a link to complete this on Survey Monkey shortly and will only take you a few minutes to do so. If you have not got it via Parentmail, please type the following into a browser:- Main classroom children - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3-5s2016> , Pam and Anne's children - https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SEN_2016

Thank you also to those of you who completed the recent survey about the new +15 hours of early years entitlement which will come into effect in September 2017. I am meeting with the Governing Body before the end of term to consider how we offer this to our families.

Christmas!

You will have noticed the nursery beginning to get more festive. The children are busy preparing and learning songs for you on the 16th December. Please make sure you know which session you are coming to. It is really important all the children have someone to share this experience with...plus there might be a little something special for you!

Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday 15th December for those children who are full time or have already settled into Lunch club. If your child does lunch club already and you would like them to have Christmas lunch with us, then please talk to Sarah.

Don't forget about party day on the 20th December - please check your letter carefully so that you know which session your child is coming to and when you need to collect them. Please note, there are no normal sessions on this day. We ask all families for a £1 donation for this towards the party food!

Finally, we finish for the Christmas break on Wednesday 21st December, this is also our Pyjama day - so please get your children to come dressed appropriately! Nursery will open on Wednesday 4th January 2017! On behalf of myself and all the team, we wish you a wonderful break and hope you all enjoy some quality family time over the festive season.



The greatest show on Earth!

Did you hear about the 'West End' style spectacular that came to Dorking Nursery last week? All the children were treated to a show, this was the opening of the stable which you may have seen in the role play area. The staff dressed up and acted out the Christmas story while the children all had a special ticket to watch the show! Ask your child all about it - see if they know who played Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and Kings!



Car park

We continue to have a few 'repeat offenders' using our car park for drop off and pick up. I have also had a complaint from a resident in the flats opposite as well as from the Pet Shop. As I have said on many occasions, we only have 6 spaces but 100 children. I need all parents to respect this and remind you that you are all informed of the parking situation when offered a place with us.

Myself, Becky and Sarah are spending too much time sorting out disputes. Please can you pass this message on to other relatives and friends who might collect your child, including childminders and grandparents, etc.

Fundraising

The FOND committee have been busy working hard and have got a wonderful hamper and some other prizes on offer in the Christmas Raffle. Tickets are only £1 - so please buy these soon. The draw will be made on Monday 19th December. We are also asking for donations of dried/tinned food for the local food bank. If you are able to donate a tin of something, we would be very grateful!

FOND have some exciting ideas for fundraising in the spring term - watch this space!

Thank you to everyone who has voted for us on the Aviva Web page for the Community Fund. We have made it as a finalist - which means the £1,000 grant towards our ICT equipment is getting closer!

Thank you for your support!

Kathy & Emma
(FOND Representatives)

Governors

You will know from previous letters that have been looking for Parent Governors to join our Governing Body. Kathy (Jack's mum in 2-3s) will be joining us and so will and Clover, (Frankie and Max's mum in 2-3s and 3-5s).

Voice of the child

Jack was recently playing outside and talking about being an adult! He was getting his tongue tied with words and said 'I shall grow and grow and one day I'll be an adult!'



Forest School

The first group of children have just had their Forest School experience. They had a wonderful time enjoying a variety of games which encouraged the children to explore the environment. The weather was extremely wintery but they all carried on with a smile on their face! The activities included pond dipping, mini den building, weaving, 3 little pig den building, bug hunting, mud pies and potions and a favourite of the children; carrot peeling!



Learning from home

Christmas preparations can be hectic for everyone in the family, so it's worth remembering that it can be a bit unsettling for your child. Try to prepare them for any changes in routine by explaining what's happening and give them a chance to talk about it. For some of the younger children, last Christmas is probably only a hazy memory, so looking at photos of last year's celebrations and talking about them can be very helpful. Involve other family members if you can and let your child hear about other experiences.

Do try to involve your child in your preparations. They love to make their own cards and simple decorations and learn some Christmas songs. You might get glitter everywhere, but it will be fun! If they have an Advent calendar, draw their attention to the numbers and use them to count down the number of sleeps until Christmas Eve. Do share some Christmas stories together and talk about how every family has a different way of celebrating. Together you will be building up a rich store of memories for the future!

Attendance

Currently, attendance for our 3-5s group is 90.8 %. We have a number of children whose attendance has fallen below this. We will be starting to inform parents of their individual child's attendance at parent meetings. As a school run nursery, we monitor attendance very closely, particularly for those children accessing our priority 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 a place or even withdraw it.

Lunch club and additional sessions

Don't forget, if you would like your child to come to lunch club or do an extended day, just speak to Joanna or Sarah. This does not have to be a regular commitment, if you would like to do this as an adhoc session, that is available too!

Applying for Primary School

Don't forget that you all need to apply for your child's Primary School place by 15th January. You should have received details about this from the local authority. If you need any help completing the form please let us know and we can support you. Please can I ask that you let us know when you have submitted this so that we can identify who might need help! We also ask that when you have received information about which school you have been offered and accepted that you let us know so that we can arrange the transition for your child.

This also applies to families in our SEN provision - you still need to apply for a mainstream school place as a 'back up' for your child.

Parent Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent evening in November! This evening was really well attended and the feedback was excellent! Tracey, Marian and Joanna shared some wonderful insights into the 'secret lives of our children' at Dorking Nursery! One parent wrote; 'a great evening, much enjoyed and of immense value!'

Our next Parent Evening will take place on Tuesday 28th February!



Diary Dates

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

Thursday 15th December - Christmas Lunch for those already settled at lunchclub

Friday 16th December - Sing a long - please check your times on your letter

Tuesday 20th December - Christmas Party - please check your session times on your letter

Wednesday 21st December - Last day of term and pyjama day!

Thursday 22nd December - Monday 2nd January - Nursery closed for Christmas break

Tuesday 3rd January - INSET Day - Nursery closed for staff training

Wednesday 4th January - Start of term for nursery

Tuesday 28th February - Parents Evening, 7pm

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

Headteacher (head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk)

