

Newsletter

3-5s Nursery March 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are already at the Easter holidays and about to embark on the summer. Another term has flown by and lots of fun activities and learning are taking place each day in the nurseries.

Don't forget to follow and 'like' us on Facebook, both our 'Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre' page, as well as our 'Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre Fundraising' page! We are going to be updating these regularly, so it is a great way to keep informed.



Starting School

On the day we return from the Easter holidays, you will receive your notification from Surrey regarding your child's school place. If you applied online you will get an email, if you made a paper application, you will receive this in the post.

If you do not get your first choice, please do not panic. Come and talk to us and we can support you through the next steps. If you receive a choice you are happy with, it is vital you follow the instructions given to accept this place. We will be asking you to let us know where your child will be going to, this is so that we can work closely with each school to ensure a smooth transition for your children. We also meet with each teacher in the summer term to share information about your child and how they learn as well as hold a 'Getting ready for school' evening in June. This will take place on Thursday 29th June at 7pm.

You might want to consider some lunchclub sessions or extended day sessions in the summer term to help prepare your child for the longer day they will be experiencing at school.

Staffing changes in the 3-5s

There are some staffing changes taking place in the summer term in the 3-5s. I have already written to Natasa's families; however, Natasa has had an operation recently and will be requiring further treatment in the summer term. She will be taking some leave to receive her treatment and therefore not returning to the Nursery this school year. Charlotte Pesquero, who many of you will know as our Interim SENCo (covering for El Davis during her maternity leave) will be working in the 3-5s nursery each morning and key working Natasa's morning and full time children. Her afternoon children will be looked after by either Marian or Joanna. I am sure you join me in wishing Natasa well in her recovery.

Marian will also be leaving us in July. Marian has decided that after 38 (yes, 38!!) years of teaching, that she is going to hang up her pencil case and take the opportunity to spend quality time with her family. We will miss her dearly and wish her well for the future. Myself and the Governors have advertised for a new Nursery teacher for September 2017.



Fundraising galore!

Thanks to everyone for their amazing baking efforts in the Comic Relief Cake Sale last Friday. The children had an amazing day doing all sorts of 'red' themed activities. We also raised an amazing total of £168 which will be split between FOND and Comic Relief.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help sell the cakes on the stall.



You will also have noticed that FOND have a brand new logo! Thanks to everyone for casting their votes!

There will be one more fundraiser in the summer term (week beginning the 8th May) - our sponsored event! More information to follow!

Nursery School Campaign

You will remember in the last newsletter I drew your attention to the Save our Nursery Schools campaign and asked you to sign the petition. Overall, this petition now has 28,773 signatures in total, and 142 from the Mole Valley area. If you have not already signed it, please can I ask you to do so and share with your friends and family.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/171052>



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.



In the last week, I have been very busy with this campaign. There was a news feature in the Surrey Mirror last week, titled 'Surrey Schools fear they will have to lay off teachers and possibly close by 2019'. The link is here if you have not read it; <http://www.surreymirror.co.uk/dorking-schools-to-possibly-lose-up-to-100-000-in-funding-by-2019/story-30205451-detail/story.html>

This article led to BBC Radio Surrey contacting me for an interview. The item aired on Friday 24th March, rather than Thursday 23rd March due to the events in Westminster. However, if you have not heard it, you can listen again on the BBC Surrey website. The interview is about 1 hour 12 minutes into the Breakfast Show. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04vj13h>

The Dorking Advertiser ran a similar story to the one in the Surrey Mirror, their headline was titled 'Head fears funding formula could force nursery to close'. All these news articles and head lines are

very 'hard-hitting', however, in order to fight our cause for fairer funding, myself and the Governors are working hard to be proactive in this campaign rather than reacting when it is too late. This is also the case for our local primary and secondary schools who are also gaining momentum in this campaign.

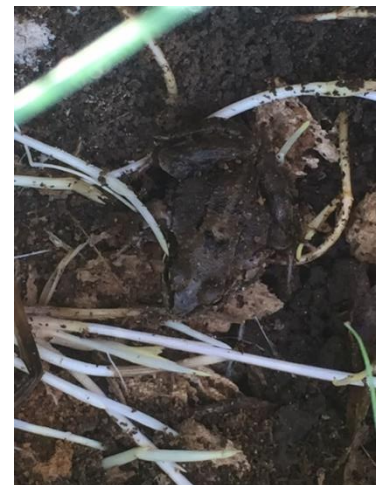
Finally, myself and Sandy Horvath, (Chair of Governors) met with the Mole Valley MP, Sir Paul Beresford last Thursday. We shared our concerns with him and he listened to our fears. He was positive about supporting the Nursery and Children's Centre, and has asked me to send him further information which he will raise with the Cabinet Ministers. He also joined myself and Sandy on Tuesday at a meeting at the Palace of Westminster. I will keep you informed with regards to our campaign and ask that you keep supporting us, sign the petitions and spread the good word about what we do for the children.



(Left to right, Sandy Horvath (Chair of Governors), Donna (Headteacher), Sir Paul Beresford MP)

Mums and Grandmas Week

Thank you to our Mums and Grandmas who have given their time this week. The children have enjoyed stories, games and painting activities. Many have also taken part in our Forest School adventure and seen thousands of tadpoles squiggling about in the pond!



Forest School

The children visiting Forest School recently have had an amazing experience! They have been really busy in the spring sunshine. They have been playing Charlottes' favourite game 'Rabbit, Rabbit, Fox', carrot peeling, hammock swinging and even finding frogs hiding under logs! The pond is full of tadpoles too - so we expect more jumping friends to be joining us soon!

Thank you to all the volunteers who give up a couple of hours to support Forest School - we could not do this without you!

Voice of the child

There have been lots of cases of Chicken Pox in the Nursery recently. As you will know, the children are able to return to nursery after the spots have crusted over. One child welcomed back her friend with joy recently, and then made a very accurate observation about his spots..."Oh look...you have tickle bumps! We will be letting the British Medical Association know that we think 'tickle bumps' should replace the phrase 'chicken pox'!

Save the date

The very last day of the summer term is our Family Picnic! There will not be any normal nursery sessions on this date. All the children come to nursery that day with you! The picnic will take place from 10am - 11.30. More details to follow nearer the time.

Finally

Don't forget we break up this Friday for the Easter break. Let's hope the sun shines for us so we can make the most of being outside. Our Goodwyns Road site is open as usual for families to attend Stay and Play sessions (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 11.45am). Children aged 0-5 are welcome, but children aged 6 and above cannot attend. It will be closed on Good Friday (14th) and Easter Monday (17th). Both sites, including Nursery reopen on Tuesday 18th April.

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 18th April - Nursery re opens

Monday 8th May - Sponsored Week - more information to follow.

Thursday 29th June, 7pm - Getting ready for school evening

Friday 23rd June and Monday 26th June - INSET Day - Nursery closed

Friday 21st July - Last day of term - no normal nursery session - save the date - Family Picnic 10.00am - 11.30am - more details to follow.

Best Wishes

Donna Harwood-Duffy

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

