



## Newsletter - February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The last six weeks of term have flown by, Christmas seems like a distant memory, but summer certainly still feels like it is a long way off. As has been advertised in all the Newsletters this academic year, we are closed today for a staff training INSET day, and also closed next week for half term. We re-open as normal on Monday 24th February.

**Term dates** - Please also note the holiday closures at the end of the term and Surrey term dates, to access these on Surrey County Council website - [click here](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2023)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2023>

**Parking** - Thank you to those of you who have respected the local parking restrictions in our car park and at Pet's Corner. There have been a few parents who have been fined for parking at Pet's Corner and a few that continue to park in the residents bays in the flats opposite and despite me speaking to them, continue to ignore the reminders. Therefore, can I kindly ask that this is respected and local car parks are used instead so I can prioritise our spaces for those families who need it and work with our neighbours.

**Farewell Monika** - tomorrow we will say farewell to Monika who has worked with us since 2018! Monika started as a Nursery Assistant in the 3-5s and has completed extensive training to gain her Level 3 Early Years Qualification and develop her expertise in supporting children with additional needs. Monika starts a new role at a specialist school after half term. Good luck Monika!

**Your key person** - If at any time you need to talk to your child's key person, or a member of staff, do let us know. However, please note, your child's key person may not be able to talk to you at drop off and pick up, as they are in ratios and with the children, but we can make arrangements for a mutually convenient time. Alternatively, email the office [admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk) or call us on 01306 882397 and leave a message for the member of staff.

**Termly donation** - you may have seen a £10 termly donation on your School Money account. This is a voluntary contribution to enable to us to provide enhancements to our curriculum. This includes all breakfasts and snacks, Woodland and Forest School snacks, resources to make playdough and other sensory activities and much more. If you are able to make this donation, we are really grateful.

**Tissues** - we are going through many tissues at the moment! If you are able to donate a box of tissues, we would be extremely grateful!

**Fees for lunches and extended/additional sessions** - please ensure accounts and payments are up to date at any time. As per the terms and conditions, we ask for payment in advance of any sessions taken as we have to ensure the appropriate staffing is in place and order meals in advance.

**Bringing items to nursery** - we continue to have some children who have food or other items in their bags, such as lip balms. These should not be brought into nursery at any time.

**Parent Meetings** - parent meeting invites will have been sent or will be sent soon. Invitations for meetings will go out 2 weeks prior to the meeting via our online booking system. Dates and times are limited, so we ask that you make every attempt to do the days/times offered as we have organised cover in the classroom as we may not be able to find an alternative.

**Collection at the end of the session** - please note that staff will not send children to their parents at home time if they are on their mobile phones, either talking or scrolling on the

screen. If that is the case, you will be asked to put your telephone away prior to your child being sent you.

**Tapestry** - If you have not done so already, do check your Tapestry account regularly. You will have had an update in January. This is a great way to see what your child is interested in at nursery and to spark up a conversation with them about their learning.

It is wonderful to know that parents have seen the posts, so please do this by either commenting on the post or 'liking' it with the 'thumbs up'. Please feel free to add photos from home too! We love to see them. Your next update should be posted by the end of the month!

**Attendance** - Attendance at school is really important and we will follow up on all absences. If you know your child will not be in for any reason, please call and let the office know dates of absence and reason. We will always ask the specific reason for absence, so that we can monitor any contagious or infectious illnesses that we need to let others know about. This is to safeguard everyone, so please do not be offended if we ask.

We follow all guidance from the NHS, Department for Education and UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) for incubation periods and illnesses.

"It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above".

We would encourage all parents to read the following guidance from the NHS; NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance<sup>2</sup>

It is also our policy not to allow children to attend nursery if they have been given Calpol, Ibuprofen or similar over-the-counter medicine as this could mask symptoms and temperatures. We can also only administer prescription medicines. You will need to complete a form in the office if your child needs to be given prescription medicine. We require children to remain off nursery following episodes of vomiting and diarrhoea for 48 hours to avoid the spread of any illnesses.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



*1 - Half term fun!*

### **Half term fun!**

There is lots happening locally next week for half term - visit the Hello Dorking page<sup>3</sup> to find out more, including:-

- Hello Dorking are running a **FREE Half Term Craft Caper** on **Monday 17th February** from **10am – 1pm**. Just drop in to the **United Reformed Church**
- Variety of half term local cafe offers
- Dorking Library has Storytime, Lego Club, Rhymetime, Crafts, Badge Making and lots more - visit the Dorking Library website<sup>4</sup> for more details and specific days and times
- Dorking Halls<sup>5</sup> - events all week

### **Admissions for September 2025**

We are currently processing our applications for September 2025, if your child attends now and will still be with us in September, do make sure you have seen your offer email so that we can ensure places are offered fairly.

If you know someone born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2023, do encourage them to apply for a place at Dorking Nursery School for a September 2025 start, again by the deadline of 15th January 2025. Application forms can be completed online using the link here.<sup>6</sup>

**If your child is due to start Primary School in September 2025**, applications will have been completed by the 15th January date. For our families with children with high needs, do

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.hellodorking.com/february-half-term-in-dorking/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/your-library/find-your-nearest/dorking/events-and-activities>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.dorkinghalls.co.uk/whats-on/all-events/>

<sup>6</sup><https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BwH0XB5GrEaGxSxoF9V1xqbffSpWKWpGnr9nNFmyHnxUOTQ4TIdaOEplV0ExNzhHVUVKTzIJMkE1WiQIQCNOPWcu&route=shorturl>

check with us if you need to complete a mainstream application or if your child will be admitted through the SEND route. If you have any questions, please ask.

### **Working entitlement funding codes**

If you are accessing a working entitlement place with us now or in the future, your code needs to be checked and renewed each term. If you have had a reminder from the Government, please do this as soon as possible and let us know, this is your responsibility to do this. We cannot fund any places if codes are checked after the start of a term.



*2 - Early Bird parent programme*

### **Early Bird Programme**

We are thrilled to share with you that two of our staff, Lisa and Nicole have recently undertaken three days of intensive training to become licensed Early Bird trainers. This will mean that we can deliver and run the Early Bird Parenting Programme from the National Autistic Society which supports parents who have young children with additional needs or with a pending diagnosis. This is a 10 week programme and we hope to be advertising and running our first one in the summer term!

If you think this might be beneficial for your family and you are interested in the course, then please email [earlybird@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:earlybird@dorking.surrey.sch.uk)<sup>7</sup>. We will hold names on our waiting list and be in touch when we are ready to run the first programme. Families will be prioritised based on need.

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<sup>7</sup><mailto:earlybird@dorking.surrey.sch.uk>



### **Woodland Adventures!**

Both the 2-3s and 3-5s children have had some wonderful experiences in our Woodland this term. The children have been making mud pies, exploring this new environment, playing games, finding frogs and of course the best bit...enjoying hot chocolate and a biscuit!



*3 - Litter picking!*

### **Eco Schools Update**

*"We are the litter crew"!*

Thanks to our wonderful team who named themselves 'The Litter Crew' who donned their high-viz jackets, gloves and grabbers to help us tidy the entrance to school. The team filled a whole bin with waste and litter they collected. Not only was it great for our community, team spirit, but also using the grabbers will help the children with their hand eye coordination and fine motor skills...just what they need to be writers when they move to primary school!







### **FOND Spring Raffle**

FOND, our fundraising charity hosts a raffle at the end of the spring term. If you work for a local business, or have links to a local business and they are able to donate a prize, we would love to hear from you. Amy (Elijah's mum in the 3-5s) would love some help to either seek prizes from local companies or collect prizes. If you can let the office know if you can help, they can pass on a message to Amy.

The Spring Raffle will be drawn on Friday 28th March and tickets will be on sale from Friday 14th March.

FOND have recently supported the school this year by:-

- Purchasing all the children their Christmas Book gift
- Supporting the children's festive parties and funding the Magician in the 3-5s
- Purchasing much needed sandpit covers for the 2-3s and SEND classes so that this vital resource is protected overnight and then provides quality for the children each day in their learning
- Funding renovation of the pond area at Woodland for all children to continue to enjoy as part of their adventures
- Winning a grant from a local business to support the costs of a new shed storage for outdoor resources being delivered over half term.



### Key dates

**Friday 14th February 2025** - INSET Day - Nursery Closed

Week beginning **17th February - 21st February** - Half term, Nursery Closed

**Monday 24th February 2025** - Term starts

Week beginning **3rd March 2025** - World Book Week

**Friday 21st March** - Comic Relief, Red Nose Day - wear red and bring a 'red' donation for the Food Bank - more information to follow.

Week beginning **24th March 2025** - Mums and Grandmas Week - more information to follow

Week beginning **24th March 2025** - 3-5s Forest School Adventures

**Friday 4th April 2025** - Last day of term for Easter

More dates and news can be found on our website <sup>8</sup> or on our Facebook Page<sup>9</sup> or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website<sup>10</sup>.

**INSET Days for 2024-25-** Dorking Nursery School closed:-

- Friday 14th February 2025
- Friday 20th June 2025

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<sup>8</sup><https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2021>

**Last day of term in summer 2025:-**

- Wednesday 16th July 2025

**Final note**

Finally, thank you for all your continued support! If you have any comments, questions or queries, please contact the office. Don't forget to follow us on social media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - you can search for us @dorkingnurseryschool.

Regards

Donna

Executive Headteacher

**Building trust, empowering communities, educating all**

