



## Newsletter - May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

May is now upon us and we are already half way to half term. I hope everyone had a wonderful long weekend.

With the warmer weather approaching, please do read the reminders below about our sun safety policy so that you can ensure your child is appropriately dressed and prepared for the weather. Please note the other reminders too:-

**Term dates** - Please note the holiday closures at the end of the term and Surrey term dates, to access these on Surrey County Council website - [click here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

**The last full nursery day** (normal hours) is Tuesday 15th July. Wednesday 16th July is a **Stay and Play** fun day where we invite you to join your child for a shorter session. More details with specific timings will be shared later in the term.

**Parking** - Parking continues to be an issue, with parents and carers parking in the nursery car park without a valid permit or registered Blue Badge. This tends to happen more in the afternoon sessions. Please can I ask all families that do not have a permit not to park in our school car park or in our neighbours' spaces and respect the limited spaces we have for our families who need it.

**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 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.

**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.

**Gate Safety** - please ensure the black gate is closed as you pass through it, on a number of occasions it has been left open, which is not safe.

**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 to you. There are also a considerable amount of parents who are late to collect their child,

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

again this tends to happen more in the afternoon session. The local primary schools all finish earlier than our 3.30pm finish to enable parents to make two pick ups, please ensure you are arriving on time to collect your child.

**Tapestry** - If you have not done so already, do check your Tapestry account regularly. 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".

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.

**Dorking Banking Hub** - With the reduction of a lot of local banks in the High Street, there is a local Banking Hub at the council offices if needed - for more information visit the link **Cash Access UK - Dorking (Surrey)**<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/dorking-surrey/>



## VE Day - Thursday 8th May

This Thursday is the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. This is being celebrated widely in Dorking at the weekend with lots of local events. The second world war holds a special place in the history of Dorking Nursery School, as our school opened on the 3rd October 1939 to support evacuated children from London during the war. The aim was to provide respite to host families, but to most importantly provide a sense of normality in a time of huge unrest.

We will be putting up our Union Jack bunting this week and doing a range of Red, White and Blue activities. Staff will be dressed in these colours and your child is welcome to also.



## Sun Safety

Please familiarise yourself with our sun safety policy and 'do's' and 'don't's':-

- Apply suncream prior to attending nursery
- If your child attends all day or does extended days, send a bottle of suncream into nursery that can be left onsite.
- Children must wear hats outside, please ensure this is named if you provide one for your child.
- No sunglasses, except prescription sunglasses.
- Shoes/footwear must be suitable for climbing and running. Sandals, open toes, sling backs, straps, crocs are not permitted. Trainers are ideal.
- Tops must cover shoulders - strappy spaghetti straps do not provide suitable protection.

## Dorking Nursery School Admissions for September 2025

We are processing our applications for September 2025. If your child attends now, we will shortly be sending you more information about the next steps, visits, and start dates for September, so do look out for this email when it comes. There will also be a meeting for the current families who are moving from the 2-3s to the 3-5s in September. This takes place on Thursday 15th May at either 9.00am or 12.45pm.

We have a few remaining places for September, 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. Application forms can be completed online using the link here.<sup>3</sup>

### **If your child is due to start Primary School in September 2025**

If your child is due to start in a primary school in September 2025, please make sure we have the name of the school you have accepted. This is so that we can ensure that information is securely passed over and for key people to liaise with primary teachers. If you have not already told us where your child is going, please complete the form link here<sup>4</sup>.

### **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, it is your responsibility to do this. We cannot fund any places if codes are checked after the start of a term.



*1 - Early Bird parent programme*

### **Early Bird Programme**

In the last letter, I shared with you that two of our staff, Lisa and Nicole had recently undertaken three days of intensive training to become licensed Early Bird trainers. This means 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 started last week, supporting the first group of families.

If you think this might be beneficial for your family and you are interested in the course in the future, then please email [earlybird@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:earlybird@dorking.surrey.sch.uk)<sup>5</sup>. We will hold names on our waiting list and be in touch when we are ready to run the next programme. Families will be prioritised based on need.

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<sup>3</sup><https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BwH0XB5GrEaGxSxoF9V1xqbffSpWKWpGnr9nNFmyHnxUOTQ4TIdaOEplV0ExNzhHVUVKTzIJMkE1WiQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl>

<sup>4</sup><https://forms.office.com/e/A9sDW5L32d>

<sup>5</sup><mailto:earlybird@dorking.surrey.sch.uk>



## Family Support

**Time out for parents course** - we are working in partnership with the New Life Church to host a parenting course at Dorking Nursery School in May/June aimed at parents of children in the early years. A flier was emailed last week, and it starts 19th May. For more information and to sign up, please email [safeguarding@newlifedorking.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@newlifedorking.co.uk). Subjects such as emotional needs, managing behaviour and parenting styles will be covered.

**Family Support Worker** - we are delighted to share that we have now recruited our own Family Support Worker, Jennifer, to work with our families who may need it - she can help to fill in a form, give some advice, deliver parenting courses, workshops and coffee mornings or be available if you just want a chat! Jennifer has worked at our sister school for the last 6.5 years as a teacher. Prior to this, she worked in Children's Centres in London, so is very well skilled to support our families. If you would like to make a time to see Jennifer you can ask at the office, or email her directly on [familysupport@dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@dorking.surrey.sch.uk)<sup>6</sup>. Jennifer is looking forward to getting to know you all.

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<sup>6</sup><mailto:familysupport@dorking.surrey.sch.uk>



# TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



## THE EARLY YEARS

Sessions for anyone parenting children under 5

A 6-week course run by New Life Church Dorking in partnership with Dorking Nursery School

**Date:**  
Monday May 12th and 19th (no session on May 26th) June 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd 1pm to 3pm

**Venue:**  
Dorking Nursery School, West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BY

**Cost:**  
£10 per adult

**For more information:**  
Contact Helen Sutherland on 01306 502415 or email [safeguarding@newlifedorking.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@newlifedorking.co.uk)

We will cover subjects like:  
Meeting emotional needs  
Managing behaviour  
Building a strong family  
Parenting styles

Any parent or carer of a child in the pre-school years is welcome to come along.

To book call 01306 502415 and leave your contact details

Book early with cash payment to secure a place

Common sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship







**Leaf Crew!**





## Eco Schools Update

Last time, I told you about our 'Litter Crew' who helped to litter pick! This month, we have purchased some new brooms and now have a 'Leaf Crew' - who are busy sweeping the leaves that build up in front of the school. Chris, our handyman, has build a composter in our Forest School, where the children have deposited their leaves. Well done to all! What a community effort!





## **FOND Update**

FOND, our fundraising charity, hosted a raffle at the end of the spring term. A total of £1,000 was raised which has helped to mend the shed in the Forest School. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets.

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.
- Wood to fix the shed in Forest School.

This term, all the children will take part in an Obstacle Challenge. This annual event will take place during May and all the children will go out of their comfort zone to do a range of challenges. This year, we are raising money to update our Soft Play area, so a well used part of the school by all. Images of your child doing this will be put onto Tapestry, so do look out for them. Challenges will take place - 6th May 2-3s, 12th May 3-5s and 19th May SEND class. Donations for this are on Just Giving, do Gift Aid your donation if you can. So far, £420 is on the page, thank you if you have already donated. If you have not yet, then the link to do so is here<sup>7</sup>.

We will also be sending out information this week about how to purchase a Leavers T-shirt if your child starts school this September.

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/dnschallenge2025>



### Key dates

- Week beginning 6th May - 2-3s Sponsored Challenge
- Thursday 8th May - VE Day, wear Red, White and Blue
- Week beginning 12th May - 3-5s Sponsored Challenge
- Thursday 15th May 9am or 12.45pm - 2-3s to 3-5s Transition Meeting
- Monday 19th May - Time out for Parents Course starts
- Week beginning 19th May - SEND Sponsored Challenge
- Friday 23rd May - Last day of half term
- Monday 26th - Friday 30th May - Half term, Nursery Closed
- Week beginning 9th June - Dads and Grandads Week
- Friday 20th June - INSET Day - Nursery closed
- Wednesday 16th July - last day of nursery, Stay and Play sessions

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>.

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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>



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

- Friday 20th June 2025

**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**



