



Newsletter - November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The autumn term is well underway now and the children are fully settled in their learning. We are gearing up to the festivities at the end of this term. You should have had an email with the specific times for your child's sing-a-long/party. Please make a careful note of these, as on some days, there are changes to sessions, timings and lunches. A copy of the Festive letter is saved on the website on this link¹.

¹https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/_site/data/files/documents/08AFDBE4FE0B1BDA3C557E527864321A.pdf

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](#)².

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 or call us on 01306 882397 and leave a message for the member of staff.

Don't forget to follow us on social media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - you can search for us [@dorkingnurseryschool](#).

Staffing update

We welcome a host of new staff this term:-

- Tessa, Jodi, Emily, Kayleigh, Sam, Beata and Monica all join us this term as Nursery Assistants. They are working across all three classes to support the children in their play and learning.
- Angie is leaving our servery team at the end of the summer. Angie started working at Dorking Nursery School in 2004 and has decided to spend some much needed time with her family. Lucy will be joining our Servery team this December to replace Angie. Lucy currently works in the school kitchen at St Michaels Infant School, so knows the job well.
- El our SENCo leaves at Christmas. El joined the team at Dorking Nursery in 2014 and will be leaving us to work for a large school Academy group. I am delighted that Lisa from the 3-5s Nursery will be the SENCo from January 2025 and as soon as we have recruited to fill Lisa's teaching role, I will update you.
- Fran will join the office team this week. Fran will work with Andi and Sarah as your first point of contact in the school office. Fran previously worked in our Family Centre team, so we are delighted to be working with her again!

I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new team members and wishing El and Angie all the very best for 2025 and their new adventures.

Food allergies

We have a large number of children with allergies and food intolerances. For this reason, we ask that under no circumstances are any food or drinks, including drinks cups sent into nursery in your child's book bags or rucksacks. We have water and milk freely available for all children throughout the day, and provide snacks, so there is no need to send drinks bottles or any food into nursery.

²<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2023>

Please can we remind parents to let us know of any allergies or dietary needs your child has so that we can keep them safe and ensure we are providing the right food for your child. Please also speak to the office if this changes for your child.

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?' guidance³

It is also our policy not to allow children to attend nursery if they have been given Calpol, Ibruprofen 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.

Admissions for September 2025

We are currently processing our applications for September 2025. If your child is currently in our 2-3s Nursery, you will shortly be sent a form to complete regarding your session preference, morning/afternoon or 30 hours. You do not need to complete another application form. Please ensure this is completed by the admissions deadline of 15th January 2025.

If your child is due to start Primary School in September 2025, applications also have to be completed by the 15th January date. If you need any help to complete the application form, please do not hesitate to ask. For our families with children with high needs, do check with us if you need to complete a mainstream application or if your child will be admitted through the SEND route.

³<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If you have a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2023, or know someone born between those dates, 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.⁴

Children in Need - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated something for the local Food Bank on Friday for Children in Need. Linda from the Dorking Foodbank came to collect the items on Friday afternoon and could not believe how much we had collected. It really does make a difference to the community.



Tapestry

If you have not done so already, do check your Tapestry account regularly. A secure link will have been sent to you using the email address you provided to us. Once a month some photos and observations will be added to this by your child's key person. 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.

Key dates

Sunday 1st December - Dorking Gala - are you able to help in any way, even sparing an hour to serve tea and coffee? Bake a cake? 'Man' a stall at the Gala? See letter ⁵for more information.

⁴<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BwH0XB5GrEaGxSxoF9V1xqbffSpWKWpGnr9nNFmyHnxUOTQ4TIdaOEplV0ExNzhHVUVKTzIJMkE1WiQIQCNOPWcu&route=shorturl>

⁵https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/_site/data/files/documents/08AFDBE4FE0B1BDA3C557E527864321A.pdf

Thursday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day - all children (and staff) to wear Christmas Jumpers in aid of Save the Children

Monday 16th December - 3-5s Festive Sing a long - please check your separate letter for the exact time your child will be singing.

Tuesday 17th December - 2-3s Festive Sing a long and Party day - please check your separate letter for exact timings. There are no normal sessions in the 2-3s on this day (no lunches or extended day)

Wednesday 18th December - 3-5s Party day - please check your separate letter for exact timings. There are no normal sessions in the 3-5s on this day (no lunches or extended day)

Thursday 19th December - SEND class Festive Sing a long and Party day - please check your separate letter for exact timings. There are no normal sessions in SEND on this day (no lunches or extended day)

Friday 20th December - Pyjama Day - all children (and staff) to wear PJs for the day (no onesies please). This is the last day of term

Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January 2025 - Christmas holidays, Dorking Nursery School closed

Monday 6th January 2025 - First day of the spring term

Tuesday 14th January 2025 - 9.30am and 2.30pm - Meet the SENCo drop in

Wednesday 15th January 2025 - School Admissions Application deadline for September 2025

More dates and news can be found on our website ⁶ or on our Facebook Page⁷ or Instagram @dorkingnurseryschool

We follow Surrey County Council term dates, to view these please visit the Surrey Website⁸.

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

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

Last day of term in summer 2025:-

⁶<https://www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk/>

⁷<https://www.facebook.com/dorkingnurseryschool>

⁸<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates#year2021>

- 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.

Regards

Donna

Executive Headteacher

