



Welcome to our most recent newsletter. We have tried to include lots of information and important dates covering from now until the end of the Summer term. We will add a copy of this Newsletter to our website.

**Nursery News**

We have a new member of staff who has started with us very recently. Bev will be supporting across lunchtimes and will also be working across some morning and afternoon sessions.

Two members of staff who have been on maternity leave will be returning to work just before the Easter holiday. It will be lovely to see both Lindsey and Laura back at nursery. For those families who are new to our nursery, Lindsey is our Assistant Head Teacher and Laura is our Nursery Practitioner who has previously worked alongside our 2 year old children.

Our lovely teacher Alison, who has been covering a maternity leave, will leave us at Easter. We will be very sad to see her go as she has been such an asset to our team and has supported both children and families. I hope you will join us in wishing Alison well for the future.

**Nursery Developments and things to look out for.....**

**Garden Developments**

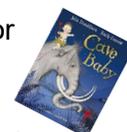
Lots of exciting things are happening in our gardens. In our 2 year old garden, the sand pit is working really well and the staff and Caretaker have worked together to improve the mud kitchen area. In the back garden, things are under way with growing and planting. We are working on setting up our green house and are accessing some support from Durham County's Early Years Team around a growing project.



Our Caretaker, John, has worked really hard to improve our gardens and has planted lots of spring bulbs. He really can put his hand to anything, after creating our reindeer, we wonder what might come next!!! Hopefully we will have a new wooden cabin installed in our garden across the Easter break. This will give us a break out area in the garden and will also provide a new shaded learning area for when the weather improves. We hope you like the changes we have made to our indoor environments. The children are accessing the learning space well and are very purposeful in their play.

**World Book Day and Take a book home- Thursday 5th March**

World Book Day is Thursday 5th March. We are asking children to come to nursery in their pyjamas for a Bedtime Story day. There will be lots of exciting activities to join in with, all relating to favourite stories.



On this day, all children will borrow a book they have chosen from nursery. The book does not need to be returned until Monday 9th March, so please read it lots of times at home! At nursery we promote repeated reading, with children listening to the same story many times. This supports them in learning new words and sounds, gaining an understanding of story structures and lets them join in and answer questions.

Please remember that you can borrow books from our Lending Library as we have noticed that this has not been used as frequently lately. If your child is interested in a particular book or has a certain interest, please let their key person know. We have lots of books and we are sure we can find the right one!



**Help Your Child At Home** ([www.hordennursery.sch.uk](http://www.hordennursery.sch.uk))

Please have a look at the section on our website on 'How to help your child at home'. There is lots of helpful information on subjects including potty training, tooth brushing and early Maths and Literacy ideas. Leaflets are also available in our cloakroom area.



**Food Bank Donations**

Parents and families continue to be very kind and have donated food items for the local Food Bank. If you would like to make a donation, which can be as little as a tin of soup, you can find a basket in our reception area. There is also a list of wanted items which you might find helpful. Thank you in advance for your support.

If you need a food parcel, please don't struggle. We know how hard it can be and we can access support for you.

**30 Hour Provision**

If you believe that your child may be entitled to attend across 30 hours per week from after Easter, please speak to Natalie as you will need to complete a check. Spaces are limited, so it is best to do this quickly.

### Our Governing Body

We currently have some vacancies for Parent Governors and would like to invite any interested family members to speak to Natalie to find out more about the role.

Please be aware that any suggestions, questions or comments from parents can be brought to the Governing body either by speaking to Natalie (the Head teacher) or to one of the other Governors. Our Chair of Governors is **Jane Long**.

### Starting Primary School

Many of our children will leave us in July, ready to start Primary School in September 2020.

If your child turns 4 before August 31st 2020, you should have completed an application for school. If you have not done this, please speak to Natalie and we can help you.

You should find out if your child has a place at their preferred school in April. After this point, will we be talking to feeder schools about visits and transition arrangements.

### Parent Questionnaire

You will soon receive a parent questionnaire. Please fill it in and return it to your child's key person, or the office. Your views are really important to us and help us to improve our practice and the services we provide.

Thank you in advance.



### School Fund

Please could we remind parents that we ask for £1 school fund per week to support with purchasing snacks and baking ingredients. This should be given to your child's key person each week.

### Children's Absences

We realise that there have been many bugs and viruses going around and at times when children are poorly, it is sometimes better that they remain at home.

Although this is the case, our Attendance figures are lower than we would hope for at the moment, with many children missing a number of days each week. We actively promote good attendance, ready for when children begin statutory education and hope that you will support us with this.

Can we reassure parents that we will always ring you if your child is unwell at nursery. It is also good to know that we can administer medication, including calpol, if a parent has filled in a form.

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is poorly on 0191 5865415. If the school does not receive a phone call, the secretary will ring to make sure everything is ok.

### Farm Visit

We are planning some visits to Tweddle Farm at Blackhall during the Summer Term.

The children in the 3-4 year old room will attend the farm with our staff, however we will ask that a parent or adult is able to attend with the children from our 2 year old room. This is due to the ratio of adults needed for our youngest learners. You will receive a letter containing all the required information in the near future.



### Supporting Families

Please remember that we can support you in lots of ways. Recently we have supported families to access food parcels, clothing and grants to purchase household furniture, appliances and carpets. We are here to help, please let us.

### Easter School Holidays

Our school breaks up for the Easter holiday on **Friday 3rd April**.

We return to nursery on **Monday 20th April**. We hope that you all have a lovely break.



### Hatching Chicks and Ducks

We are hoping to welcome some feathery friends into the world around the Easter period. The children will be able to watch first hand as both chicks and ducks hatch. Together they will learn about the life cycle of these birds and find out how we care for them.

This is a really exciting and special time in nursery and we ask that parents and families talk to their children and visit the hatching area in order to support their learning.



### Facebook and Our School App

Keep up to date with information and important dates through our Horden Nursery Facebook Page and Our School App.

If you need help in downloading the school app please let us know.