



Welcome to our new children and families

We would like to say a warm welcome to all of the children and families who started with us in January. It has been lovely to meet everyone and we are very pleased with how well the children have settled, especially some of our youngest learners.

Nursery news

Chinese New Year- We have had a great time celebrating Chinese New Year recently. Not only have the children learnt about this celebration, they have also had a chance to try some Chinese food.

Mark Making- Many children are showing a real interest in making marks at the moment. This includes painting and drawing in many areas of the nursery and also using paint brushes and rollers outdoors with water. Children learn to control pens and other writing instruments by developing the muscles in their arms, hands and fingers. In nursery we provide lots of activities that promote this development such as playing with playdough, exploring gloop and messy substances and lots of dancing and movement that encourages children to move their arms, hands and fingers. If your child is beginning to write letters or copy their name, please can we ask parents to use lowercase letters where appropriate rather than using capitals throughout words as it can be confusing for the children. If they are talking about the names of the letters, please refer to how the letter sounds. For example sssss rather than S, or nnnnn rather than n. This is very important as when children begin to read they blend the sounds they know together, for example s-a-t = sat. If you would like any information on activities that promote early writing or reading, please speak to a member of staff.

Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS)

In Nursery we follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. It includes welfare requirements that support us in keeping your child safe and also sets out 7 areas of learning and development that help us to plan activities and experiences.

The website– www.foundationyears.org.uk has a wealth of information about the Early Years including 'What to expect, when' and 'A Parents guide to the EYFS'. Both of these publications are well worth looking at.

Keeping Our Children Safe

Our nursery is committed to ensuring that all children are safe and kept from harm– this is called Safeguarding. Safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, however we have particular people who are Designated Safeguarding Leads in our nursery. They are **Mrs Natalie Parkinson**, the Headteacher, and **Mrs Lindsey Johnson**, the Assistant Headteacher. We also have a Governor who supports us in this role called Mrs Jane Long.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of any child, you are able to speak to them at any time.

We have a Child Protection Policy on our school website that has recently been updated that contains lots of information and parents are very welcome to read it.

School Fund



In order to provide daily snacks for children and to assist with the cost of play dough and baking ingredients we ask for a weekly contribution of £1.

This can be brought to nursery on your child's first session of the week and handed to their key person.

Can we apologise if our new parents did not receive this information during their child's visit sessions.



Mobile Phones

Please can we remind parents that using mobile phones in the nursery is not permitted. This is to ensure that all children are safe and it is also important as often the children are excited to see you and want to greet you and tell you about their day.

Children in nappies / toilet training

If your child wears a nappy to nursery, please could you bring some nappies and wipes in a bag labelled with their name. Although we have a small number of spares, these do get used quite quickly.

If your child is just beginning to be toilet trained, please let the key person know so we can support you. It would be helpful if you could send in some spare pants, socks and clothes. Please do not worry if they have a number of accidents at nursery, there are lots of lovely, distracting things to do and children can sometimes wait a little too long before going to the toilet.

If your child has borrowed nursery clothes, please could you wash and return them.

If you would like support with toilet training, please speak to a member of staff.

Nursery Website and Facebook Page



Please remember that we have a school website, www.hordennursery.durham.sch.uk, which contains lots of information for parents.

We also have a **Facebook page**, so please like and share.

Red Nose Day –24th March



Children are invited to attend nursery wearing something red to support this important charity event.

Please do not worry if you do not have any red clothing as we can paint faces or noses.

Donations on this day would be greatly appreciated.

Safer Internet Day– Tuesday 7th February

As you will know, many of our children have access to computers and tablets and spend time on the Internet or on particular Apps. On Tuesday 7th February we will be joining many other schools in promoting the safe use of digital technology for children. We will be reading a story called 'Penguinpig' with the children. This story is very child friendly and begins to introduce the concept of being safe online.

We will be providing all parents with an information sheet on 'Keeping Under 5's Safe Online' provided by the Charity 'Childnet'.

Cotsford Infant School (next door to us) are holding an information session for parents run by the NSPCC on online safety and parents from our school have been invited to attend. This session will take place on Friday 10th February at 1.30pm in their school hall. If you would like to attend, please go along. If you require care for your child in order to attend, please speak to a member of staff.

30 hour nursery entitlement for some 3 and 4 year olds

From September 2017 the government are proposing that additional funded hours, up to 30, will be available for some qualifying working parents. You may have heard it referred to as '30 hours free childcare'.

The criteria to qualify for this entitlement are-

A child qualifies for free childcare if they are resident in England and are under compulsory school age, both parents working (or the sole parent working in a lone parent family) and **each** parent earns on average-

- A weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or national living wage (approx. £115.20 per week)
- Less than £100,000 per year

As we know that some of our children will be eligible we will shortly be sending out a survey to the parents of the children who will remain with us in September.

This will help us to understand the demand for places and look at the offer that we can provide to parents.

We would like to thank you in advance.



Valentines Day

We will shortly be sending home some valentine hearts. These will be paper hearts on which you can write a special message to your child. These will be returned to nursery and read with the children in their key group. Please can all hearts be sent back to ensure each child can participate.

Staff Carpark

It is with great sadness that we feel that we have to ask parents to speak to their older children about running around staff cars when they are waiting to pick up siblings. Unfortunately a member of staff's car has been scratched. Although we are aware that many older siblings behave very well, it has been noted that members of staff have had to speak to individuals on a number of occasions. Please can we ask parents to be aware.

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 poor 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.

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.

Extended day sessions

We are currently able to offer a variety of extra sessions to children. These can include full day sessions, lunch club, breakfast club and early drop off facilities.

These services are at an additional cost and if you are interested please speak to a member of staff.

Go Orange for Muscular Dystrophy

We would like to say a huge thank you for your support and donations to this important charity. We raised £72

Thank you again!

Packed Lunches

Children very much enjoy staying for their lunch at nursery and the lunchtime session is proving to be very popular.

Can we remind parents that we do ask that a healthy packed lunch is provided. We will shortly be sending home some guidance on healthy packed lunches, alongside our policy. If your child is a little fussy with their eating or you are having difficulties in this area, please speak to a member of staff. We are here to help in any way we can.

School Calendar

Please find attached a copy of our school calendar with the dates of school holidays and staff training days highlighted.

It is a statutory requirement for staff to attend a number of professional development days (PD Days) throughout the school year. Our school will be closed on these days.

If you have any friends or family who have young children, please let them know about our beautiful nursery. We have spaces for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Names can be put on the waiting list from birth and we take children from all areas, not only Horden.