



Horden Nursery February 2018 Newsletter



We would like to say how well the children have settled back into nursery, especially our new children in the two year old room. Thank you to all our families for supporting us. If you have any questions or would like to chat to a member of staff please remember we are always available.

Dental Health Project



Our nursery has been asked by Durham County Council to be part of a Dental Health Project. Horden, Blackhall and Peterlee have been identified as areas that have some of the highest percentages of children who need to receive treatment for dental health issues, including extractions, at a very early age.

In order to tackle this issue, we will be taking part in a tooth brushing programme with our two year olds in the near future. This will mean that our youngest children will take part in supervised tooth brushing, supported by our staff each day when they are in nursery. Parents will receive more information nearer the time and we hope you will support us with this important project.

As part of the project we will also be looking at how we can support dental health through our own practices in nursery. Although we only offer milk and water at snacktimes, many children staying for lunch do have drinks of juice supplied from home. We would like to start to provide drinks for children at lunchtime with the option of milk or water. We will be sending out an information letter shortly for parents whose children stay for lunch and we hope you will support us with this worthwhile change.



Durham Light Project

Some of our children have been involved in a project organised through Durham County Council, celebrating Durham as a place of light. Photographs and information about the project have been displayed in a gallery at the Gala Theatre at Durham for a number of weeks. We would like to say thank you to the parents who have attended and we appreciate the lovely feedback that we have received.

The exhibition is now finished and the images and information will be displayed in our nursery very shortly.

Passwords for Collecting Children

Can we remind parents that as part of our Safeguarding children procedures, we will not let an adult who is unknown to our staff collect one of the children. If someone different is picking up your child, please inform nursery and ensure that they have the password that you set when your child was enrolled.

A big thank you for items donated

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and families for donating boxes, cartons and old jewellery. We use a lot of recycled things so your support is very helpful.

We are now asking for donations of-

- Rolls of wallpaper and lining paper
- Unwanted kitchen equipment such as whisks, sieves, ladles, spoons etc
- Buttons



Clothing and Names in Belongings

Please could you ensure that there are names written in your child's belongings. With the weather being cold many of the children are bringing hats, scarves and gloves and as you can appreciate with the number of children we have, it can be time consuming and difficult to locate lost property.

It is very important that our children have the choice to play outdoors when they are at nursery. As you will appreciate it is a little muddy at this time of year. The staff do try to ensure that the children wear the correct clothes for the weather, however it is helpful if children can come in a warm coat and clothes that are not their best.

Parent Questionnaire

We have recently sent out a parent questionnaire and hope you will take the time to fill it in and return it to nursery. Your views are really important to us and help us to improve our practice and the services we provide. If you did not receive your copy, please ask a member of staff.

Check out our new Parents Noticeboard and White Board in the children's cloakroom. This can be found next to the back door leading to the garden. Please look out for information and updates and leaflets in the wall crates.

Chinese New Year

Across our first week back at nursery we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. This will include trying some Chinese food for our snack.

World Book Day



On **Tuesday 6th March** we will be celebrating World Book Day. We would like to invite children to dress up as a favourite character if they would like to. Children will take part in some story related activities alongside staff on this day.

We are hoping to organise a story related event for parents to attend in the near future and will keep you posted on the date and time as soon as it is known.

Mothers Day Morning and Afternoon Tea

We would like to invite all of our Mams, or any other important ladies in your child's life, into nursery on **Friday 9th March**. We will be sending out a special invitation very soon.



Wellies and Tissues

If you have any children's wellies that no longer fit, please could you donate them to nursery.



We have lots of runny noses at the moment, if possible could you donate a box of tissues. As you can imagine we are using a lot at this time of year!



Children's Bags

Can we ask that parents do not put medication into children's bags as this can be very dangerous for not only your child but also other nursery children. If you need medication to be passed to another family member who is picking up your child, please speak to a member of staff who can ensure it is stored safely and handed to the correct person.

Drinks and snacks are provided at nursery, therefore there is not a need to supply them yourselves. At times drinks and snacks left in children's bags are causing issues with children helping themselves or becoming upset when they notice them.
Thank you for your support.

School Fund

Please can we remind parents, and let new parents know, that we ask for a donation of £1 per week for snack fund.

This supports us in buying daily snacks and also the ingredients we need to make playdough or carry out baking activities.

This money should be handed to your child's key person at the beginning of the week.



School Easter Holidays

Our school breaks up for the Easter Holidays on **Thursday 29th March**. We return to nursery on **Monday 16th April**.

Sport Relief

On **Friday 23rd March** we will be supporting Sport Relief. We would like to ask all children to come to nursery in their pyjamas and bring a donation which will be sent to the appeal. Staff will be coming in their pyjamas too!!

As part of the day we will be taking part in a keep fit session, a walk around the beach bank circuit and a visit to the park.



Hatching Chicks

From the week beginning **19th March** we will have some very special visitors in nursery. The children will be able to watch as baby chicks hatch right in front of their eyes. This is always a fantastic experience and we will be keeping you posted on our Facebook page.

A Message from our 2 Year Old Staff

Linda, Laura and Amy would like to ask parents if they would like to provide a pair of slippers for the children to wear in the room. The weather outdoors is very wet at the moment and this will help to keep the nursery floor clean.



30 hour nursery entitlement for some 3 and 4 year olds

From September 2017, children of qualifying families are able to access 30 hours of education and care. 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

You can get further information, check your eligibility and apply on line at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

If you would like further information please speak to Natalie or a member of the office staff.

If you currently receive 30 hours at our nursery, please can we remind parents that they need to reapply every 3 months. You should receive an email to remind you.

Governing Body News

We currently have a vacancy for a parent representative on our Governing Body. If you would like to apply, or would like more information, please speak to Natalie.