



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

Unfortunately our Lunchtime Supervisor and Nursery Assistant, Val, has left our nursery. We are really sad to see her go, but wish her lots of luck for the future. We have 2 new lunchtime supervisors starting with us from the week beginning 25th February. Sue and Janine will work with the children across the lunch period every day. We are sure you will join with us, in welcoming them to the nursery team.

We have a new Nursery Practitioner starting with us across the week beginning 4th March. Stephanie is an experienced nursery nurse who I'm sure will bring lots of new and exciting ideas.

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

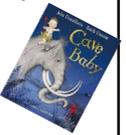
Garden Developments



Lots of exciting things are happening in our garden. We hope you like our new sand pit area and grassy bank that have been installed. Very soon we hope to have a green house and growing area built in the back garden to support year round growing and planting. We also have plans to install a large wooden summerhouse to provide a new gathering area.

A new walk-in sandpit will soon be built in our 2 year old garden. This will provide new opportunities for play for our youngest learners.

Take a book home



We have updated our lending library at the entrance into nursery and hope that parents and children will borrow some of our lovely books to share at home. Books can be found on the shelves and in the baskets. Please sign your chosen book out on a page in the file provided. There are also some information leaflets available on early reading.

At nursery we promote repeated reading, with children listening to the same story lots of times. This supports them in learning new words and sounds, gaining an understanding of story structures and lets them join in and answer questions. If your child is enjoying a particular book, please feel free to keep it at home and read it as often as you can.

Help Your Child At Home (www.hordennursery.sch.uk)



Please have a look at our new 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



In the past parents and families have been very kind and have donated food items, through our nursery, to East Durham Trust. This Trust provides food parcels to individuals and families who require support. We are now a drop off point for donations. 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.

Tooth Brushing



Our school is part of a project with Durham County Council to look at how we can improve the dental health of young children. Research has highlighted our local area as having a high percentage of children who have had a dental procedure or extraction before statutory school age. In order to support this project, we will shortly be sending out a letter to explain a tooth brushing programme that we hope to implement across our school. Some parents may remember that we have previously carried this out in the 2 year old room.

Parents will need to consent to their child brushing their teeth at school, if you have any questions please speak to a member of staff.

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.

Chair of Governors

Jane Long

Vice Chair of Governors

Stuart Gibson

We have a new Parent Governor who has joined our Governing Body. We would like to welcome Terri Thornton, who we know will be a great asset.

Parent Questionnaire

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

We have tried to provide some examples relating to the questions, as feedback from last year asked for this. We hope you find this helpful, however if you have any further questions or comments please speak to Natalie or Lindsey.

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. It is also good to know that we can administer medication, including calpol, if a parent has filled in a form with Lindsey or Gemma our medical officers.

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.

Staff Training Day

Our nursery will be closed on **Friday 5th April** for a staff training day. All schools are required to have a set number of school days set aside for training purposes. We apologise for any inconvenience.



Easter School Holidays

Our school breaks up for the Easter holiday on **Thursday 4th April**.

We return to nursery on **Tuesday 23rd April**. We hope that you all have a lovely break.



Hatching Chicks and Ducks

Over this half term we will be welcoming some feathery friends into the world. 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. Our first visitors arrive on **Tuesday 12th March**.

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.