



Welcome to our most recent newsletter. We have tried to include lots of information and important dates. We will add a copy of this Newsletter to our website and the Class Dojo.

Learning, developments and things to look out for.....

Spring Term 1

Across this half term children have been involved in lots of lovely learning opportunities. Not only have they spent time following their own interests, they have also enjoyed being outdoors cooking over a fire, observing and finding out about different birds who visit our garden, taking part in Lunar New Year celebrations and finding out how to stay safe online.

Information on keeping your child safe online has been added to the Class Dojo, please take a look.

Outdoor Garden Developments

Lots of exciting things will be happening in our 3-4 year old garden soon. After our climbing equipment was condemned and removed in the Summer, we have been looking at different options to replace it. We have talked to the children about what they would like, and some children have even documented their ideas. In response to this, we have been in communication with a local company, who have drawn up plans for a number of improvements. These include, adding a new climbing structure, canopy areas, a basket swing, a climb and slide area and an outdoor open classroom. We are really excited and we are hoping that the work will begin in April.

A new canopy area will also be built in our 2-3 year old garden. This will provide a covered outdoor area for our youngest learners.



Take a book home

Due to Covid-19 and the restrictions on parents accessing our nursery, families have been unable to access our story lending library. In order that books can once again be borrowed, we have purchased a small wooden outdoor storage cupboard. After the February half term holiday, this will be placed in our front garden near to the bench, with a range of books for you to take home and share.

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 like.



School Website (www.hordennursery.sch.uk)

We have updated some of our policies, which have been added to our website. We have also added a section on Healthy Eating and Oral Health. Please take a look, as there is lots of helpful information.

Facebook Page

Please remember to follow us on Facebook. We add lots of information and beautiful posts that show the learning that takes place across our nursery.

Spaces for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

We currently have spaces in our nursery, and children can attend from their 2nd birthday. If you have any friends or family with young children, please let them know that they can come for a visit and children's names can be added to our waiting list from birth.

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 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.

Our Governing Body

Some of our governors have recently visited nursery, as part of their role includes monitoring. They have been looking at our environment, observing teaching and learning and spending time with the children and staff.

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 Isabella Roberts

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 should be brought to nursery on your child's first session of the week, or can be paid across a half term in one instalment. Please can we ask that this money is brought in an envelope with your child's name on, or if you prefer it can be paid through a bank transfer.

Account number– 00008812

Sort code– 77-29-07

Please add your child's name as the reference, along with SF for school fund.

Staff Training Day

Our nursery will be closed on **Monday 28th February** 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.

Names in clothing

Please can we ask that children's clothes, bags, wellies and coats have their name in where possible. As you will appreciate, it can be very difficult to find or return lost items if they are not labelled.

February School Holidays

Our school breaks up for the half term holiday on

Friday 18th February.

We return to nursery on **Tuesday 1st March.** We hope that you all have a lovely break.

Drop off and Pick up times

Please can we ask that children are dropped off as close to the session start time as possible. This ensures that children do not miss any valuable teaching and learning time.

Pick up times are between 11.40am to 11.45am on a morning, and between 3.20pm and 3.30pm on an afternoon.



Hatching Chicks and Ducks



In March 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. As parents are currently unable to come into nursery, we will be adding photographs and videos to the Class Dojo and Facebook site. This is a really exciting and special time in nursery and we ask that parents and families talk to their children about this experience, in order to support their learning.



World Book Day 2022

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 3rd March. We will be spending time sharing stories and taking part in activities linked to some of the books we read. Across the week staff will be reading their favourite books and these will be shared on the Class Dojo, so that you can listen with your child. Maybe you could let us know your child's favourite story that they like to read at home.

Please note that children do not need to dress up on this day. We don't like to place burdens on parents and costumes can be very expensive.

Mother's Day Celebration

We are hoping to organise Mother's Day celebrations across the week beginning the 21st of March. Hopefully we will be able to invite mams into nursery, depending upon the restrictions at the time.

Further information will be sent out soon.



Farm Visit

We are hoping to plan 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 may 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.

A few helpful reminders.....

- Morning nursery sessions begin at 8.45am and finish at 11.45am, afternoon sessions begin at 12.30pm and finish at 3.30pm. Full day children attend between 8.45am and 3.30pm.
- Please ring and let us know as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent
- Inform us if someone different is picking up your child and give them the password
- Complete and return admissions forms and keep us informed if any details change
- Children who attend all day need a healthy packed lunch– please see our Packed Lunch Policy (please add an ice pack as lunches can not be refrigerated)
- Please try to be on time for your child at pick up as they can become distressed and it can often affect staff lunches, breaks or worktime.
- Inform us of any new medical conditions or changes
- School fund is £1 per week. This can be paid weekly or through bank transfer. Please add your child's name as the reference if bank transferring
- Please pay for your care sessions on a weekly, or monthly basis. It is preferred that this is done through bank transfer, including your child's name as the reference.
- Bank details for transfers- **Account number**– 00008812 **Sort code**– 77-29-07
- Please label your child's belongings with their name
- Nappies and wipes need to be provided for children who require them. Spare clothes should be provided for children who are toilet training in case of accidents.
- Sunscreen should be applied before your child attends nursery on warm days. Sunscreen should be provided for full day children, so it can be reapplied.
- If you would like any nursery jumpers, cardigans or coats, please come to the office. These can be paid for by cash or bank transfer. Jumpers £8, Cardigans £9, Coats £20
- Follow our Facebook page, sign up for Class Dojo and check our website
- Remember to check out the Learning Journals site/app for information on your child's learning. You can add stories and comments too
- Recommend our nursery to family and friends. We have spaces for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, and names can be added to our waiting list from birth
- Remember we are here to help and are always available to talk to you

FEBRUARY 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Half term holiday	22 Half term holiday	23 Half term holiday	24 Half term holiday	25 Half term holiday	26 Half term holiday	27 Half term holiday
28 Nursery Closed- Staff training day						

MARCH 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 Nursery re-opens Pancake Day	2	3 World Book Day	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Red Nose Day Holi Hindu Festival	19 Red Nose Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Mothers Day
28	29	30	31			