



Hornden Nursery January Newsletter



Welcome back

We would like to say Happy New Year to all of our families, we hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. We would like to welcome our new families whose children have just started with us.

Staff News

We would like to say welcome to our new members of staff who have joined our team in January. Laura Johnston is now working with us in our 2 year old room as a Nursery Practitioner. Laura has had a lot of experience working with children at another 'Outstanding' Nursery School and we look forward to the new ideas that she will bring to our team.

Amy Williams returns to our nursery as a Nursery Practitioner. Amy has worked with us in the past and has a good understanding of the way we work. Welcome back Amy!

Lunchtimes are currently very busy and as a result we have had to employ another Lunchtime supervisor. Many of our longstanding children and families will be pleased to see the return of Karen Burton. Karen worked with us for a number of years and we are really pleased to have her back.

On Monday 8th January all the staff attended a training day at the nursery. Together we looked at Safeguarding children and updated ourselves on new information concerning keeping children safe from harm. More information can be found in the Safeguarding section of this Newsletter.

Safeguarding and 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.

Our Safeguarding Leads are Natalie Parkinson, the Headteacher, and Lindsey Johnson, the Assistant Headteacher. We also have a Governor who supports us in this role called Jane Long.

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

We have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website that has recently been updated. It contains lots of information and parents are very welcome to read it or office staff can print a copy for you. We have a Safeguarding leaflet for visitors and parents which is available in the main entrance. Please feel free to take one.

As part of our Safeguarding procedures, please can I remind parents to let us know if anyone different is picking up your child. If this person is not already known to us, they will be asked for the security password that you provided on the School Admission form.

A big thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and families for the support you have given us across the last term. We have had great attendance at school events including our Christmas craft session and our Sing-a-long and I'm sure you will agree they have been a great success. The children had great fun at the Christmas party, including lovely party food that was very kindly provided by yourselves.

Thank you very much.

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 will shortly be sending 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. Our Governing Body look forward to receiving them and thank you in advance.

School Website and Facebook Page

We have a school website which contains lots of information about our school. Many of the policies have been updated and new information and photographs have been added. Please take the time to have a look and any feedback or ideas are welcome.

Our website address is: www.hordennursery.durham.sch.uk

We have a Horden Nursery Facebook page where you can find lots of up to date information and messages. Thank you to all of the parents who have commented on our posts and written reviews.



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.

Headlice

We have had some reported cases of headlice in the nursery recently. Please could you check your child's hair and apply a treatment if necessary.

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 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.

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 Half Term Holiday

Our school breaks up for the half term holiday on **Friday 9th February**. We return to nursery on **Monday 19th February**.

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.

A Message from our 2 Year Old Staff

Linda, Laura and Amy would like to ask parents of our children in the 2 year old room if they could bring in some pictures of their family. Many parents have already brought some that have been added to our family wall.

This display helps to settle many of our new children and also encourages children to point to and talk about people who are special to them.

Safer Internet Day- Tuesday 6th 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'.