



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.....

Nursery News

We have 3 new members of teaching staff who have joined our team. Christina, Robyn and Jill will be a great asset to our nursery and I'm sure you will join us in welcoming them.

We also have 2 new lunchtime supervisors, both Paula and Amy have already made lovely relationships with our children who stay across the day.

We will be holding an Easter raffle and tickets will be on sale from the week beginning the 18th of March.

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 and cooking over a fire, observing and finding out about different birds who visit our garden and taking part in Lunar New Year celebrations.



Outdoor Developments

You may have noticed our new nature school area at the front of the building. Our friend Adam from AB Playgrounds has worked really hard to build us a new fenced area, along with an outdoor shelter. The children have spent time exploring the area and have had the opportunity to experience hot chocolate over our new fire pit. This area has provided a long awaited designated space for outdoor learning.



World Book Day 2024

This year World Book Day is Thursday the 7th of March. Across the week beginning the 4th of March, we will be celebrating this event by taking part in lots of activities from some of our favourite stories and books. Staff will be sharing their favourite stories on the Class Dojo, so please share these with your children.

Please also look out for our top tips for sharing stories and reading at home. Reading with your child is really important and can have such a positive impact on their development, including their language and communication and attention and listening. Your child does not need a costume for World Book Day, as this is very costly for parents.



Take a book home

Please remember to use our Lending Library, which is positioned near to the front entrance. You can borrow a book any time you like, all that we ask is that you sign them in and out with the date and your child's name.

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.

School Website

We have updated some of our policies, which have been added to our website. You can also view our new nursery video on the Home Page, along with our Facebook feed

Facebook Page

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

Learning Journals

Our staff work really hard to write observations about some of the lovely things your child has been doing in nursery, along with spotlight assessments that are completed every 6 months. Please can we ask that all parents continue to view these on your Learning Journals account regularly. If you do not have/ have forgotten log in details, please come to the school office and the secretaries will be able to send you a new email to log in to the app.

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.

We know that it is a tricky and expensive time at the moment. Please remember we are here to help and can support with referring families for food parcels or other advice.

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. 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.

Spring Term 2 - £5

Summer Term 1 - £6

Summer Term 2 - £7

Names in clothing

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

School Holidays

Our school breaks up for the 2 week Easter holiday on **Thursday 28th of March**. We return to nursery on **Monday 15th of April**. We hope that you all have a lovely break.

Please see our attached calendar for other holiday and bank holidays

Teeth Cleaning



We are awaiting a delivery of toothbrushes and toothpaste so we can begin to support children with supervised toothbrushing. Please see our notice board in the 3-4 year old porch, along with information on our website for tips and details on oral hygiene.

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 they do not miss any valuable teaching and learning time. Could we ask all parents to collect their children on time at the end of the session. Pick up times are between 11.40am to 11.45am on a morning, and between 3.20pm and 3.30pm on an afternoon. Those 30 hour children who leave early should be picked up at 2.45pm.



Hatching Chicks and Ducks



From the week beginning the 11th of 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.

We will be adding photographs and videos to the Class Dojo and Facebook page. 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. We will be inviting parents into nursery to spend some time with their child and the chicks or ducks. Your child's key person will talk to you about this soon.

Nappy Changing and Toilet Training

For those children who are in nappies or pull up pants, please can we ask that you supply nappies, wipes and nappy bags. There are a lot of children who require changing at present and we are unable to subsidise the cost of these items. If your child is toilet training currently, please can we ask that you put enough pants and changes of clothes into their bag. It may also be helpful to pop some alternative footwear in case these need to be changed too. We have used a number of pairs of our wellies as spares for the children and some have not been returned. Our wellies are green with a yellow sole, or blue with a red sole. Please can we ask that you return wellies if you have a pair. If you require support with toilet training, particularly those children who go to school in September, please speak to your child's Key Person.

Farm Visit



We are looking to plan some visits to Tweddle Farm at Blackhall during the Summer Term.

A parent or carer will be asked to join their child, along with us. We had a great day last year and we are looking forward to the experience again. Details will be provided shortly.

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. 30 hour children who leave early should be picked up at 2.45pm.
- 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 on our website (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, wipes and nappy bags need to be provided for children who require them. Spare clothes should be provided for children who are toilet training in case of accidents. It is also helpful to pop a spare pair of shoes in if you can.
- 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. Names can be added to our waiting list from birth

MARCH 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Mother's Day Gifts and cards to go	9	10
11 Duck/chick hatching kits arrive at nursery	12	13	14	15 Red Nose Day– children can attend in non-uniform and any donations to the charity are welcome	16	17
18 Duck/ chick sessions for parents. More info to follow Easter Raffle tickets on sale across the week	19 Duck/ chick sessions for parents. More info to follow	20 Duck/ chick sessions for parents. More info to follow	21 Duck/ chick sessions for parents. More info to follow	22 Ducks/chicks leave nursery	23	24
25 Easter Raffle drawn	26	27	28 Nursery closes for the Easter holiday	29 Easter Holiday Good Friday		

APRIL 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Easter holiday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Nursery re-opens	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Police dogs Jet and Ben will visit on the morning and afternoon	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Bank Holiday	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Last day for children	25	26
27 Bank Holiday Half term holiday	28	29	30	31		

JUNE 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3 Nursery re-opens	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Fathers Day gifts and cards to be sent home	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY 2023

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
22 Nursery party for all children during their normal session– children can wear their party clothes	23 AM– Leavers Celebration– only children leaving for Primary School will attend with parents (children who will return to nursery in September will not attend on the morning) PM– Nursery Garden Party from 1pm– all children and families welcome.	24 Summer holidays	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Nursery re-opens for returning children on Wednesday 6th September 2024			