



**DITTON LODGE COMMUNITY NURSERY**  
St Johns Avenue, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8BL  
Tel: 01638 354252  
Registered Charity No: 1182313

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Spring 1 2026**

#### **Dear Parents/Carers**

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all! We hope that you have all had a lovely relaxing time celebrating Christmas and the New Year.

If your child is due to start school in September this year, please ensure that you apply for your child's reception class place by the national deadline date of **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

#### **Dance Sessions**

We are very excited to announce that we will be holding dance sessions with Louise, the Principal of Newmarket School of Dance again this year. This will take place on a Thursday afternoon for 6 weeks, starting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The children will get to experience a full dance class from a professional dance teacher. Unfortunately, due to numbers, this opportunity is only open to children who usually attend on a Thursday afternoon.

#### **Illness**

If your child is unwell or has a temperature, please do not send them in to nursery. If you have felt the need to give your child Calpol prior to coming to nursery then they are not well enough to be in; please do not send them in to nursery. Calpol can mask illnesses and high temperatures and we do not want to be spreading illnesses about. Here is a link to the NHS website for a guide on when to keep your child at home.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

#### **Stay and Play Session**

Our first stay and play session for 2026 is being held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 8:40am – 10:10am. We look forward to welcoming in parents/carers for the session.

#### **Tapestry**

Remember that you can add to your child's Tapestry, it is nice for us to see what they have been doing at home and gives us an opportunity to talk to them about home life.

#### **Clothing**

Please dress your child in layers when attending nursery. It can get chilly inside, as we have the

door open to provide constant access to the outdoor environment for the children. It is easier to take a layer off if they get too hot and put it back on if they get cold.

The weather is very chilly at the moment, so lots of layers and warm waterproof coats and shoes are needed for outdoors.

#### **Book of the Fortnight**

We will be introducing our book of the fortnight as soon as we return from the Christmas break. Having a focus on one story really helps the children to get to know the story and having it over two weeks gives all the children this opportunity. During the two weeks staff set up a variety of activities that will link with each story; supporting and developing understanding, increasing vocabulary and encouraging communication.

This half term the stories are as follows:

5<sup>th</sup> January – Stickman

19<sup>th</sup> January – Supertato

2<sup>nd</sup> February – The Three Little Pigs

And after half term we will start with:

23<sup>rd</sup> February – The Gruffalo

#### **Pancake Toddle**

On Pancake Day every year we hold a Sponsored 'Pancake Toddle'. As pancake day falls in half term this year, we will hold our toddle on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am**. Please keep a note of this date as this always proves to be a popular event. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

#### **Mystery Reader**

After February half term we will be introducing our Mystery Reader again. We do this each year once all children have had time to settle into nursery life. The mystery reader volunteers to come in and read a story to the children, this can be a book of your own choice or one that we have here. You don't let your child know that you are coming in and then it's a surprise for all the children. The book can be as short as you would like, or a favourite of your own child's that you would like to share with the other children. This usually takes place during Together Time at the end of either the morning or afternoon session. You are always supported by staff members. If this is something you would like to do, please let Amanda or Vikki know a suitable day or date and we can add you to the list.

## **TUB2PUB**

If you have clean, empty confectionary, biscuit or cracker tubs from Christmas, please take them down to a Greene King pub, restaurant or hotel. They will recycle them, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please support this venture if you can. Further details are available at: <https://www.tub2pub.co.uk>



## **Reminder**

Children should not be bringing in toys from home. They are likely to get lost or broken and often cause arguments between the children.

## **Have you seen...**

Have you seen the BBC CBeebies Tiny Happy People parenting website. Lots of useful information on activities, parenting support and lots more!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

## **Did you know....**

50 things to do before you're 5 is an initiative that features 50 fun, low-cost, or no-cost activities tailored to Cambridgeshire for families to share with their children, to help support them in being ready for the next stage in their education.

The 50 activities, low- or no-cost activities, include fun indoor, outdoor, seasonal, home-based, and out-and-about ideas that will get your child off to a flying start with their learning and language development.

Each experience has been suggested by parents, carers, and professionals and developed by early years experts and language specialists, to create a resource for children under five and the grown-ups in their lives.

Alongside the 50 activities, when accessing the initiative via the app or webpage, you can also browse low or no-cost live events across Cambridgeshire, tailored for families with children from birth to five.

<https://cambspboro.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome>

## **Dates for Your Diary**

**Deadline for Primary School Applications for September 2026** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

### **Stay and Play-**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – 08:40-10:10

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 13:40-15:10

**Half Term:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Pancake Toddle** – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Parents Evening** – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Last Day of Term** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March