



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

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Spring 2 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break, I hope you all had a good week. Let's hope we've seen the back of the wet weather!

We've got a very short half term and lots to fit in.

I am looking forward to the lighter evening that are on the way once we've broken up for the Easter break.

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

We are continuing with our book of the fortnight, which the children have been enjoying. This half term we will be looking at:

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

9<sup>th</sup> March – Aliens Love Underpants

23<sup>rd</sup> March – What the Ladybird Heard, which will straddle the Easter break, then:

20<sup>th</sup> April – The Very Hungry Caterpillar

#### **Home Bears**

We will be starting our Home Bears this half term. Each weekend, one of our Nursery Bears will go home with a preschool child. We ask that you write a short diary about what your child got up to with the bear. This can include photos and drawings if you wish and can either be completed on the paper provided or uploaded to Tapestry.

The children will have the opportunity to share their stories during Together Time, and the diaries will then be placed in a folder in the cosy corner for everyone to enjoy.

Please do not feel pressured to plan extravagant trips or special outings while the bear is with you — they are just as happy with a visit to the park or spending time with family.

This is always a very popular activity, and the children love sharing and revisiting their diaries with their friends.

#### **Pancake Toddle**

The children took part in our annual sponsored 'Pancake Toddle' this week. Please can all monies be paid into the usual bank account by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**. As a reminder, we are raising money towards the replacement of the soft surfacing outside. This is lifting at the edges and splitting, and we would like to replace it before it becomes

unsafe for the children to use. This has been in place since we moved into this building in 2011, so it has done well! Historically the Pancake Toddle is one of our biggest fundraisers, let's see how well we can do this year!

#### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. Although we are not planning any special activities in nursery this year, children are very welcome to dress up as their favourite book character if they would like to.

We have started handing out World Book Day book tokens. These can be exchanged for one of the special World Book Day books, written and produced especially for the event by popular authors, or used as a £1 voucher towards a book of your choice.

If your child has not yet received their token, please let a member of staff know.

#### **Mother's Day**

You should all have received an email about our Mother's Day celebrations on Friday 13th March. The celebrations will take place at the beginning of the morning session (8:40–9:40am) and at the end of the afternoon session (2:10–3:10pm).

Mothers, grandmothers and aunties are very welcome to join us, and you are welcome to attend even if it is not your child's usual session.

Please let us know by Monday 9th March how many people will be attending and which session you will be coming to, so that we can make sure we have enough goodies for everyone.

#### **Stay and Play**

Our next Stay and Play session is on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, 13:40-15:10. We try to schedule these on different days and at different times so that hopefully everyone will get the opportunity to attend at least one session.

#### **Parents Evening**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** is Parents Evening and the chance for you to meet with your child's keyperson. A reminder email will be sent out nearer the time and a sign-up sheet will go up in the foyer.



### **Clothing**

Could I please request that the children attend nursery with clothing suitable for all activities and all weathers. At this time of year, the weather can change so quickly and we still need to be able to access outdoors, regardless of the weather. Please ensure that your child brings a change of clothes in their bag as accidents do happen.

As we are half way through the year it seems a good time to check that your child's wellie boots that they keep at nursery still fit them.

Thank you.

### **Mystery Reader**

A reminder that our Mystery Reader events start this half term. If you can spare 10 minutes at the end of either the morning or afternoon session and would like to come and read a story to the children, please let Amanda or Vikki know and we can book you in.

### **Chattersacks**

A reminder that we have Chattersacks available for you to borrow and enjoy at home with your child. Each Chattersack can be taken home for a week. Every bag has a different theme and includes a book linked to that theme. The contents vary — some contain games or puzzles, others include toys — all connected to the theme, along with activity ideas to help support you at home.

The aim of the Chattersacks is to support the development of children's speech and language skills.

If you are interested in borrowing a Chattersack, please speak to Julie.

### **Policies**

A quick reminder; you can find our Safeguarding and Complaints Policies on our website <https://dittonlodgenursery.org.uk/>

### **Diary Dates**

**World Book Day** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

**Mother's Day Celebration** – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 08:40 and 14:00

**Stay and Play** –

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

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 08:40-10:10am

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

**Nursery closes for Easter** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Summer Term starts** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

As usual any questions or queries please contact me.