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

NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to say that all the children have all settled really well into nursery life and their new routines.
Get ready for lots of glitter as we head through Bonfire Night and then full steam ahead towards Christmas! There is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks.

Annual General Meeting

In October we held our AGM, where we voted in the committee for the academic year 2026-2027.
Caroline Lander – Chair
Steven Burgess – Treasurer
Nicola McEleney – Secretary
Kristie Raymond – Trustee
We really appreciate their commitment to our nursery and the time they give to supporting us. Thank you!

Clothes for Outdoor

Thank you to everyone who has already supplied wellies for their children to keep at nursery. If you haven't yet done so, please could you bring a pair in as soon as possible.
As the weather is now starting to get colder, could you please ensure your child has suitable clothing for outdoor play, including a **warm, waterproof coat**. We make use of the outdoor space in all weathers, so items such as hats, gloves and scarves will no doubt be needed over the coming weeks.
Please remember to label all items of clothing.

Spare Clothes

Please ensure that your child has sufficient changes of clothes in their nursery bag. We have lots of opportunities for the children to get wet, muddy and messy at nursery, so it is important that they have clean, dry clothes to change into when needed. Please make sure all spare clothing is named too.

Tapestry

It is important that you access Tapestry regularly. This allows you to see the observations we have added about your child and gives you the opportunity to share with us what they have been doing at home.
We are also starting to add children's next steps, so you will be able to see what we are currently working on with your child.
There is also an 'About Me' section for you to complete, which helps us to build a better picture of your child's interests, preferences and personality. If you haven't completed this already, please could you take a few minutes to do so.

Stay and Play Sessions

Please remember to put our Stay and Play dates in your diary! These sessions are always popular and the children love showing their family members around, introducing them to their friends and sharing all the things they enjoy doing at nursery. Our next session will be held on **Wednesday 9th December 14:10pm-15:10pm**.
Please remember that these sessions are only open to family members of children who attend nursery during that particular session. We will be holding further Stay and Play session throughout the year, on different days of the week and at different times, so hopefully everyone will have an opportunity to join us.

Our Spring Term Stay and Play dates are:
Thursday 4th February – 08:40am-9:40am
Tuesday 16th March – 14:10pm-15:10pm

Chattersacks

Our Chattersacks are available for you to borrow and take home for a week to enjoy with your child. Each bag has a different theme and contains a book linked to that theme. The contents vary, with some games or puzzles and others containing toys, along with activity ideas to help you make the most of the resources.

The aim of our Chattersacks is to support children's speech and language development through fun activities and shared experiences. If you would like to borrow one, please speak to Julie.

Parents' Consultation

Our parents' consultations will take place on **Wednesday 25th November,** during the evening. Closer to the date, a sign-up sheet will be put up in the foyer for you book an appointment with your child's key person. If this date is not convenient for you, please get in touch and we will do our best to arrange an alternative time.

Art Folders

All children have their own art folder where we keep their wonderful masterpieces! Please try to empty your child's folder regularly. We will put the folders out on a table at the end of session from time to time, but you are also welcome to check them yourselves. When taking artwork home, please remember to take the pictures and leave the folder at nursery. Thank you!

Book Library

In our foyer, you will find our 'Our Book Library' box on the unit. Please feel free to choose a book with your child to borrow and enjoy together at home. There is a list in the box for you to sign books in and out. We suggest keeping a book for around a week before returning it so that other families can enjoy it too. Happy reading!

Fundraising

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Sponsored Find. Together, you raised a fantastic £203.00!

We are also registered with Easyfundraising, which is a lovely and completely free way to raise money for the nursery while doing your usual online shopping. Once you have signed up, over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you shop with them, including familiar names such as eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Just Eat, Tesco, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Trainline and Dunelm.

It doesn't cost you anything extra, and donations soon add up!

With Christmas fast approaching, please consider signing up and supporting us for FREE while doing your Christmas shopping!

You can find our Easyfundraising page here:

Ditton Lodge Community Nursery Pre-School/Easyfundraising

Vinted

We are still collecting pre-loved items for us to sell on Vinted. There is a labelled collection box in the foyer where you can drop off any suitable donations. This was a new fundraising venture last year, and we made an amazing **£231.10**! Let's see if we can beat that total this year!

Christmas Fundraising

We will share more information about our Christmas fundraising plans as soon as everything has been finalised.

The children will also be busy next week with something special, so keep an eye out for an email over the next few days!

Christmas Party and Last Day

Friday 18th December will be our last day of term before the Christmas holidays. We will be having Christmas party for the children on this day, with more details on this will follow nearer the time. Please note that we will be closing at **12.30pm** to begin our Christmas break.

Dates for your Diary

25th November – Parents Consultations
9th December – Stay and Play, 2:10pm–3:10pm
18th December – Last Day of Term and Christmas Party (**12.30pm close)**
4th January – First day back after the Christmas holidays
15th January – National deadline for Reception Class applications for September 2027.