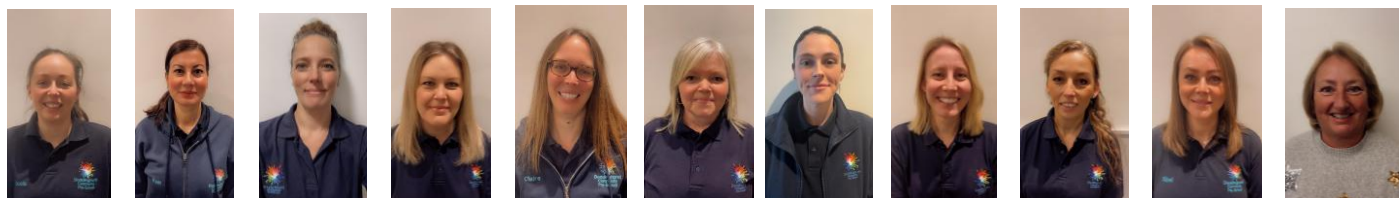


We hope you have an enjoyable Easter Break, and don't eat too much chocolate!!  
We have lots planned for the next term, as detailed below.

### **Dates for your Diary**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> April - All week** - Snap big toddle - sponsorship forms to follow.  
**29<sup>th</sup> April** - Photographer - set up in Hedgehog room  
**1<sup>st</sup> May** - NON PUPIL DAY (whilst polling day has been cancelled we still have staff training scheduled)  
**13<sup>th</sup> June** - Sports Day (More details to follow)  
**18<sup>th</sup> July** - Preschool closes at 12 for all children (followed by Leavers Only & Families Picnic)  
**18<sup>th</sup> July** - Leavers Picnic (More details to follow)

### **The Team**



<b>Nicola</b>	<b>Rem</b>	<b>Angela</b>	<b>Anna</b>	<b>Claire</b>	<b>Karen</b>	<b>Katie</b>	<b>Louise</b>	<b>Patrycja</b>	<b>Sibel</b>	<b>Jane</b>
Manager	Deputy Manager	Practitioner & Admin	Practitioner	Practitioner	Practitioner	Practitioner	Practitioner	Practitioner	Practitioner	Bank Staff

Welcome Back Katie!

### **Policies & Website**

Our website has now been updated and our new policies are now available, the website holds a wealth of information, so please take a look - [www.doddinghurstpreschool.co.uk](http://www.doddinghurstpreschool.co.uk). We also have a copy of our policies in the foyer.  
If we are unable to open for any reason we will message via Nursery in a Box.

### **Sickness & Absence Reporting**

If your child is poorly and experiences sickness or diarrhoea they may not return to Pre-school until they have been symptom free for **48 hrs** under Ofsted guidelines (whilst the primary school have adjusted their policy on this, we have not). If your child has a temperature or is unwell enough to require "Calpol" please do not bring them into preschool


If your child is absent for any reason - sickness, holiday, day out, please inform us via Nursery in a Box. As part of our safeguarding policy we need to record a reason for your absence so its imperative that you let us know by/on the day.

### **Children's coats, bottles, bags and footwear!**

Please can coats or cardigans be NAMED - thank you!

**ALL CHILDREN** - Please provide a bag with nappies and wipes if required, a change of clothes to include socks, pants/knickers, tops and trousers and ensure the bag is NAMED on the outside.

Please also provide a NAMED water bottle as they are placed on a trolley and accessible at all times - especially for hot days!

We also request **NO** open toe shoes as these are a tripping hazard! If children want to wear crocs in preschool that is fine, but please provide spare shoes for going into the garden, due to the steps, uneven surface and aren't suitable for running! 



All of your children are at different ages and stages in development so please don't worry if they are not ready yet to learn their letter sounds.

All letter sounds will be taught when your child goes to school. However, if your child is ready and you want to work with them on letters and sounds here are a few tips:

- We learn letter sounds before names. This helps your child to blend words when they begin to read and spell - Eg. sun is not pronounced **essyouen**
- Letter sounds may be different to ones you are familiar with - Eg we say mmm instead of muh - Nnn instead of nuh Sun is pronounced Sss uh nnn (not suh uh nuh).

These videos show how all of the letter sounds are pronounced: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZtjFIVa\\_fs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZtjFIVa_fs)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDu3JAjf-U0>

We learn the sounds in a particular order (not alphabetical) starting with sounds that are frequently used in common words that they will be able to read and spell early on.

- We learn phonics through fun action songs and games linked to our weekly Robot Reg sessions. Here are links to the songs:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH\\_qqjdCuBo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH_qqjdCuBo) (in alphabetical order A-Z)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzBoqtayewI> (in the order that we learn the sounds)

### **Early phonics skills for 2 year olds**

- Listening to and singing songs and nursery rhymes
- Experimenting with the sounds that instruments make

### **Early phonics skills for 3-4 year olds**

Your children are not expected to be able read and spell words yet. We try to encourage them to:

- Recognise words (pictures or objects) beginning with the same letter sound. Eg. Snake, sun, sausages
- Try to choose words with the same sound eg Goldilocks, goat, gorilla (but not giraffe)
- be able to clap the amount of syllables in a word eg goat has 1 syllable, Go- ril - la has 3 syllables
- Spot and suggest words that rhyme through stories, songs and games.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask us.



### **Planning**




This term, during our focus activities we will be concentrating on all areas of learning and activities will include recycling and keeping the village clean, which will involve taking the children out in small groups and collecting litter with litter pickers, Celebrating St Georges Day, International Dance Day and Children's Book Week. Road Safety week is in May so we will be showing the children how to be careful in the car park and safe places to cross the road, also in May is children's gardening week so we will be enjoying plants, flowers and adding some to our garden planters. This list is not exhaustive but a few examples of some fun we will be having.


Alongside the above we will also be taking part in other activities linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage through Story of the week (eg - The Gruffalo, Dear Zoo, Billy Goats Gruff, Brown Bear Brown Bear, The Very Busy Spider and 3 Little Pigs), Craft, Construction, Playing with small world, maths area, circle time, outdoor play, home corner, free play, to name a few.

We will be posting observations on Nursery in a Box, whilst this is not a requirement, we feel these are important for us to share your child's learning journey with you as this gives you a wonderful opportunity to have discussions with your child.

### Parents & thank you's!

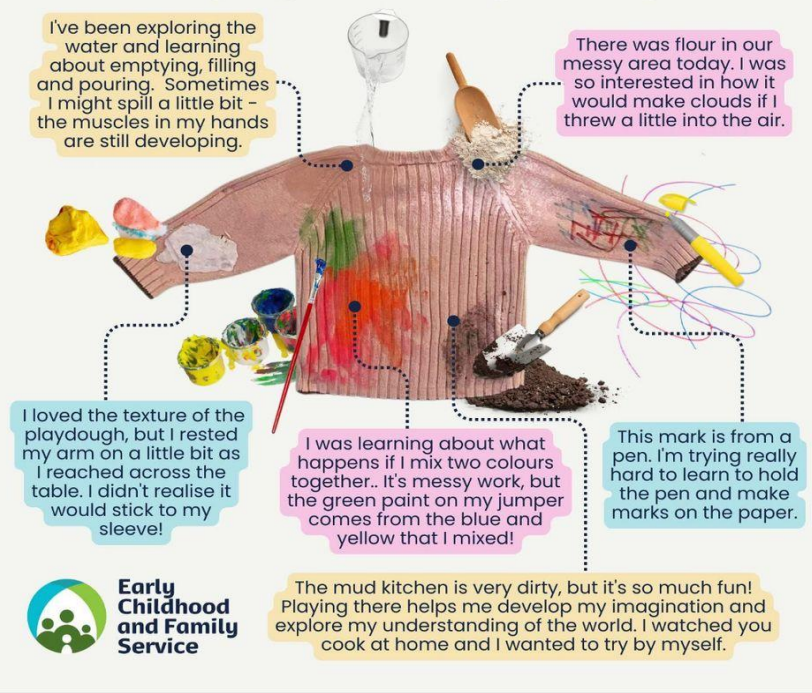
Thank you to the parents, TCM Plumbing & Heating Ltd and JWD Heating and Plumbing Ltd who have donated items to support the children's learning - we have received toys, craft items and pipes. What may seem like junk to you is a treasure trove for children! If you are having a sort out and have any items at home (and would like to donate them) we will gratefully take them off your hands - craft items, paper, paper plates, paper cups, ribbon, pipe cleaners, masking tape, natural resources (wooden bowls, wooden spoons, small baskets) pencils, pens, stickers, chalks, small cars. Whilst books are important we are inundated with them, so please donate these to your local charity shop!

Thank you 

We are lucky enough to have a fire fighter parent , who kindly offered his services to the preschool to show the children this profession up close and personal. Thank you for your time. If any other parents have a profession they could come in and show/explain/demonstrate we would be grateful. As part of the curriculum (Understanding the world) we support children in understanding different professions, and ways of life, so if you also have a special celebration you would like to share, please get in touch!

A big Thank you to Tesco for all the chocolate they donate for the children to enjoy, it's wonderful that the community support the preschool and are very welcoming when we visit on our walks!

## I'm sorry I got messy today but..



**When your child comes home messy, you know it's been a good day!!**

### Invoicing

Invoices are issued, via email, around the 20<sup>th</sup> with payment date of the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month (unless specified on the invoice). Along with your sessions fee's (which are currently charged at £6 per hour) we request a voluntary £5 per month for extra curriculum resources (breakdown on your invoice) and £1.50 per day for snack.

We only accept online payments - Sort code - 60 19 09, Account Number 96626887. Fee's are currently under review due to the rise in minimum wage, whilst we would rather not increase our fee's, it may be a necessity. Can I please request payments are made by the stated date as it is very time consuming chasing for fee's and will incur charges (as per the policy), my time that is better spent planning for your child's learning.

### Financial Support

If you are having difficulties paying your fee's, or any other payments related to the preschool, then please speak to Angela.

### Making a complaint about your childcare provider

If you are concerned about any aspect of the care provided for your child, speak to the setting about your concerns. This will often solve most problems. If you are still not satisfied you might need to ask them about their complaints procedure. If you have made a formal complaint and feel it is unresolved you can contact Ofsted, which can investigate complaints or concern about the quality of childcare provided by Ofsted-registered childcare providers or childminders, or about people providing childcare who are not registered with them. Call them on **03330 123 4666**

If you have concerns for a child's safety or wellbeing call Health and Social Care on: **0345 603 7627**