

We are now full until September 2027

Dates for your Diary

30th January - Story Time with Lilah's Mum
5th February - Story Time with Ruth Stickley - Community Connector
16th - 20th February (Inclusive) - Half Term
30th - 14th April (Inclusive) - Easter Break
7th May - Non Pupil Day
25th May - 29th May (Inclusive) - May Half Term
17th July - Last day of academic year

The Team



Nicola Manager	Rem Deputy Manager	Angela Practitioner & Admin	Anna Practitioner	Claire Practitioner	Karen Practitioner	Katie Practitioner	Louise Practitioner	Patrycja Practitioner	Sibel Practitioner	Jane Bank Staff
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Policies & Website

Preschool website - www.doddinghurstpreschool.co.uk.
Please see website for policies. A copy is also available in the foyer.
If we are unable to open for any reason we will message via Nursery in a Box.

Sickness & Absence Reporting

As per Ofsted Guidelines - If your child experiences **sickness or diarrhoea** they may not return to Pre-school until they have been symptom free for **48 hrs** under. 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 and to be in line with schools, we need to record a reason for your absence on the day (or before), so it's imperative that you let us as soon as possible or we will have to contact you or emergency contacts after 11am.

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
We also request that shoes are suitable for the weather, running in the garden and on an uneven surface.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

If you are wanting to help shape your child's preschool please let us know, we are a parent run committee and need members for varying roles, you can help as much or as little as you can spare, from fundraising to decision making to supporting in setting. Committee meet about 3 times a year but have regular contact via messaging. If you are interested or would like more information please contact - chair@dhcps.co.uk or speak to Nicola

Lunches

We would like to thank you for paying attention to our new policy and procedure regarding lunches

Couple of reminders -

GRAPES NEED TO BE CUT INTO QUARTERS AND LARGE ROUND FRUITS (ie Blueberries) NEED TO BE CUT IN HALF, LONGWAYS.

FOODS TO AVOID

NO CHOCOLATE (HIGH SUGAR CONTENT) – This include Mini Eggs (CHOKING HAZARD)

NO SWEETS (HIGH SUGAR CONTENT)

NO POPCORN (CHOKING HAZARD)

NO RAW CARROT (CHOKING HAZARD)

NO RAW SHELLFISH (FOOD POISONING)

NO NUTS (ALLERGY) OR SEEDS

Food that is placed in lunchboxes that are part of the 'Food to avoid' will be returned uneaten.

We will allow crisps (or equivalent, ie mini cheddars)



Planning



This term, during our focus activities we will be concentrating on all areas of learning and activities which will include Christmas, this will involve chatting with the children about themselves, their families and homelife and drawing pictures to represent their holidays. We will be celebrating House plant week, penguin awareness day, national storytelling week, pancake day and valentines. This will involve planting seeds and watching them grow, looking at lifecycles, talking about what makes us unique, telling stories and looking at story structure, discussing hibernation and make our animal homes, making pancakes and valentines day craft This list is not exhaustive but a few examples of some fun we will be having. What a busy half term!

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, Elmer, Brown Bear what do you see, The Very Busy Spider, 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.

Comforters/toys

We request that children don't bring in random toys to preschool, these often end up broken or lost and children are very upset by this, so to save their tears we request their toys remain home! Comforters are still welcome and will be put in their bag when not needed to avoid unnecessary loss/damage to the item, but will be given to your child when they need them.

We would love it if children wanted to share something at circle time that is relevant to our theme ie space, colour, book or your child has won a medal or had a new sibling or something special they want to bring in and share, these are gratefully welcome, but we would ask they be named and kept safely, or handed to a member of staff so they don't get lost, broken or ripped. We will then give them to the child at either morning circle or afternoon circle so they can show and tell.

Many thanks for your help and support.

National Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading 'Together we can make a lasting impact' – *National Literacy Trust*

We would love it if any parents or grandparents would like to visit the setting and read to some of the preschool children, either a morning or afternoon, just let Nicola or Rem know, in person or via message.

Sharing a book with your child is fun – It's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together. It can also give children a flying start in life and help them become lifelong readers.

When children listen to stories it introduces them to new words and gives them awareness of sentence structure. New words increase children's knowledge of vocabulary and concepts that help them understand about the world around them. When reading with children they begin to learn the meanings of words. It also creates a special moment for you and your child.

Mr P says 'I can tell which children have been read to regularly at home. Because you see it. You see it in their vocabulary, their confidence with words, their imagination, their ability to sit with a story and think. And here's the thing. It's not about being perfect. It's not about reading for an hour every night. Sometimes it's ten minutes. Sometimes it's the same story over and over again. Sometimes it's you half asleep, doing the voices terribly. But that time matters. Because when you read to your child, you're not just teaching them how to read. You're teaching them that books matter, that words matter, that they matter. And honestly that's one of the greatest gifts you can give your child'

If your child would like to bring in a favourite book we would love to share it with their friends at story time. Please name it so it doesn't get lost though!!

We will be introducing a home library in setting. Each child will have a library record, they will chose a book from the box, bring it home, read it with you, keep it a week, and once it is returned they will get the chance to change it for another one. If they love it and want to keep it for another week, that's ok, just let us know.

When the weather improves we will re-introduce the borrow books we have outside preschool, for all ages.

Parents Support

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, chinks, small cars. If you have anything else, please contact us to ask as donations are often welcome!

If any parents have a profession, you could come in and play (act)/show/explain/demonstrate we would be grateful. As part of the curriculum (Understanding the world) we support children in understanding different professions (ie Dentist, Hairdresser, Shop Assistant, Fire Fighter, Police Officer), and ways of life, so if you also have a special celebration you would like to share, please get in touch!

Invoicing

Invoices are issued, around the 20th of each month, with payment date of the **1st of the following month (unless specified on the invoice)**.

We only accept online payments – Sort code – 60 19 09, Account Number 96626887.

Financial Support

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