

January Newsletter

Dates

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January - Friday 27th March (12:00pm finish)

INSET DAY- Tuesday 6th January

Half Term - Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Easter Holidays -

Monday 30th March - Tuesday 14th April

Summer 2026

Tuesday 14th April - Friday 17th July (12:00pm finish)

INSET DAY Monday 13th April

INSET DAY Monday 1st June

Half Term - Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Welcome back

Happy New Year. A huge welcome back to all of our children and families, and a warm welcome to our new children and families. Please be aware that one of our new children requires a wheeled apparatus to access the environment so a couple of adaptations have been made to the building i.e. ramps are now in place at both doors. Please be considerate when parking and make sure that you **do not** use the disabled spot near to our path.

Think Equal Training

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation regarding the changing of the INSET day in order that we could attend the 'Think Equal' training that Surrey has bought in to.

Think Equal is a global educational programme that has been designed by some of the top educationalists in the world to address the social and emotional well-being of children and complements the September training that we did on emotional regulation. It aims to educate the hearts of children and empower global change by teaching that we are all different and unique, but we are all equal. It is aimed at Early Years and

Primary Education as it has been proven that 90% of brain development occurs by the age of 5 years and the brain is most receptive to attitudes and behaviours being formed between

the ages of 3-6 years. It is a 30 week programme that addresses 25 of the social and emotional competencies and is delivered 3 times a week through stories and activities. It also provides a digital resource book for parents that has a variety of short activities that you can do with your children at home

should you wish. As soon as we have received all of the resources then we will start the programme. We will send you a brief description of what we are looking at each week and an activity that you can do at home. We are very excited about this opportunity as we believe that it could really help shape the future of our society.

Topic

This term we will also be looking at and celebrating; Dinosaurs, Chinese New Year (the year of the horse), Shrove Tuesday, Mother's Day and Easter.

School Places

Please, please remember that this is the **last week** for school applications to be in. The closing date is **Thursday 15th January**! If you are yet to apply, please make this a priority.

[Apply for a place at a primary, infant or junior school - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Dressing for the weather

Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the very cold weather we are having. Make sure that they have a warm coat that can be done up, hat and gloves are essential too, we have told the children, that unless they are dressed appropriately, then they will not be allowed to go outside. This is to protect the children from falling ill. Please also make sure that they have a couple of changes of clothes in their bags that are also weather appropriate.

Please spend some time showing and practising putting these clothes on, and also make sure that you show them what belongings they have, so that they are able to identify what is theirs and NAME everything!!

Water bottles

Some lovely new water bottles have appeared after Christmas, please can you make sure these are named as the children do not always recognise which one is theirs.

Slippers

During the winter months we are going to trial the children wearing slippers whilst inside, this will hopefully cut down on the amount of

dirt and wetness brought in from outside onto our rugs. Please can each child bring in a pair of inside shoes, these could be slippers, or just a pair of soft indoor shoes that are comfortable to move around and play in.

Phyllis Tuckwell Sponsored Run

Unfortunately due to the weather at the end of last term we were unable to do our sponsored fun run. We know that some of you have already donated some money and some of you are wanting to do so, therefore we are thinking that we put in a provisional date of Thursday 29th January to complete the run, weather permitting. We will aim to do it in the afternoon about 2.15 and would love to see as many parents there as possible.

Parent meetings / play and stay sessions

After February half term we will be holding our parent meetings; Week beginning 23rd February. These will take place during our play and stay sessions. You will have a sign-up sheet to come and spend a little time with your child to play and get a glimpse of what their day might look like. We will send out more information nearer the time.

Forest School

Last year we found that during the cold weather, wellington boots during forest school sessions weren't keeping the children's feet warm. What Suzy our forest school leader did suggest, was a spare pair of trainers (old) with extra thick socks. This did help when it was particularly freezing cold.

Play dough recipe

Many children are loving playing with our play dough so we thought that we would share our recipe with you, if you would like to make some at home. The beauty of making your own is that it is cheaper than the shop bought stuff and you can add all kinds of things into it; food colouring, glitter, food essence (to give it a nice smell) etc.

Once made it will keep it in an air tight box.



The Very Best Play Dough

1/2 CUP SALT

1 CUP WATER

2 TBSP OIL

1 TBSP CREAM OF TARTAR

1 CUP FLOUR

FOOD COLORING, AS DESIRED

Mix ingredients together in a sauce pan over medium heat. Stir constantly until dough forms and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Let cool, then knead until smooth. Store in an airtight container.



Best wishes

Totterdown Team

Dates for your diary

23.2.26 - 6.3.26	Two weeks of parent meetings and stay and play sessions. Sign up sheet to be provided.
5.3.26	World book day. Dress as a character from a Julia Donaldson book with a surprise party! Everyone welcome, children who don't attend on that day will need a guardian present.
13.3.26	Mother's Day brunch
27.3.26	Easter celebration TBC
18.5.26 and 19.5.26	Photographer in to take individual photos and a leavers group photo.