

Ditton Nursery School

Autumn Term 2

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th January - Inset day

Tuesday 6th January - School reopens

Thursday 15th January - Primary school application deadline

Tuesday 27th January - Firefighter visit

Wednesday 4th February - Dentist visit

Friday 6th February - NSPCC number day

Friday 13th February - Break up for half term

Dear Families,

As always, it has been a very busy half-term with the countdown to Christmas. The children have taken part in so many lovely activities and have made us feel really proud with their super walking to the care home and fabulous singing for the residents. Thank you to all those who helped out!

Thank you also to those of you who attended our Christmas sing-a-long and enjoyed a mince pie and a cup of tea. The children loved having you in school.

As the end of term draws closer, we wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026!

Best Wishes,

Liane Johnson (Executive Headteacher)

2 Year Olds

We have been very busy this half term. We have enjoyed talking about fireworks and using paint to make marks that represent the colours we see in the sky.

We have also been exploring our big question, "How do we celebrate?" Together, we made cupcakes in the playdough and sang Happy Birthday to each other. We even created our own cakes, carefully measuring out ingredients and watching the changes that happened as we mixed everything together.

As the season has changed, we have been learning about the weather turning colder and noticing the leaves dropping from the trees. We have been practising our self-help skills by putting on our coats and wellies independently, getting ready for lots of outdoor learning.

We have loved engaging with our core text "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" The children have explored colour mixing and observed the new colours they can create, linking beautifully to our core text.

We have also launched our toothbrushing programme this half term, and the children have taken part with great enthusiasm, learning how to look after their teeth and build healthy routines.

Finally, we have been enjoying the build-up to Christmas. We decorated our own Christmas tree and welcomed our loved ones in to join us for Christmas crafts and festive carols. It has been a wonderful way to end a busy half term together!



3-4 Year Olds

Our focus text this term has been *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. This wonderful story has helped the children explore the world of animals and the sounds they make. We have been learning lots of new animal names and practicing their sounds together, alongside playing listening games to develop concentration and language skills. The children have also had plenty of opportunities to count and reason during play. Whether it is counting blocks or sorting toys, these experiences build strong foundations for problem-solving. Their enthusiasm for building and construction has been fantastic to see. This interest has given us a great chance to explore shapes, patterns, and spatial awareness while encouraging creativity.

We have really enjoyed the opportunities that have involved you. The children love sharing their school day and experiences with you and it makes learning even more meaningful for them. Our trip to the Storybarn was a great success. Who could not enjoy and learn from an environment that offers books, dressing up, imagination, creativity, and a touch of magic alongside beautiful surroundings? It was a truly inspiring experience for the children and sparked so much joy and curiosity. The Christmas crafts were also a wonderful way of sharing our learning with you. The children produced some beautiful baubles for their Christmas trees—thank you for celebrating their creativity!

This term we launched our toothbrushing program, which is popular with the children. They enjoy the independence and love showing us their shiny, healthy teeth after brushing! We have also started a phonics program called Little Wandle, which includes tuning into sounds and rhymes. This will give the children a great start to their Reception year when they leave us in July.

The visit from the librarians was, as always, well received by both children and parents. Visiting the library, both ours and the local one, and sharing books adds another wonderful dimension to your child's learning journey.

As Christmas approaches, the children have been singing their little hearts out as they learn the songs for our festive singalong. We enjoyed sharing this with the residents of Barklafields and with you during our Christmas singalong.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. We wish you and your families a very happy Christmas indeed!



Stay and Play Sessions

We have had a really positive response to our Christmas crafts stay and play sessions this half term.

We look forward to welcoming everybody again in the next half term.



Attendance Hero of the half term!

To be entered into our half termly draw, you need to have at least one week of 100% attendance in that half term.

WELL DONE CAYDEN WRIGHT!



Governor Spotlight



I recently retired after 14 years as a Regional Manager in the pharmaceutical industry, specializing in marketing, product launches, and leading

large sales teams in the respiratory field. Previously, I worked as an Account Manager in the endoscopy sector, gaining extensive knowledge of the NHS and healthcare markets. I also co-manage a property business, with experience in estate management and development. I'm excited to bring my enthusiasm and expertise to my new role as a Governor.

Charity Donation—Children in Need

Across the Federation, we came together and raised an amazing **£76.00** for **BBC Children in Need**! This incredible charity helps transform the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, funding projects that provide vital support, education, and opportunities for a brighter future. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated, participated, and spread the word. Your kindness and generosity truly make a difference!



Wrap Care

Wrap around care is available 8am—5pm. If you would like a space, or to enquire about prices, please speak to Catherine in the school office or email reception@affns.co.uk. Our nursery staff run these sessions, Katie runs breakfast club and April runs after school club. The children have a varied breakfast and a variety of healthy snack options for after school. If you would like to see a menu, please contact the office, or view the website.



2 Year Old Funding

With new government guidelines, from April 2024, working parents may be able to receive 15 funded hours. To check eligibility please visit <https://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk> and select Early Years. For more information regarding places, please contact the school office.

Attendance

It is really important for children to come to school every day so they are not missing out on important learning and the exciting things we have planned. If your child is not well please get in contact to let us know.



Green (97%+)
is good attendance



Amber (91-96%)
is a cause for concern



Red (below 90%)
is poor

Snack money for this half-term is £10.00.

Can we remind parents that snack is in addition to your child's nursery funding so can you please also pay snack for this current half term if you haven't already done so. **Payments can be made:** Half Termly - £10.00 Termly - £20.00 Full Year—£60.00



Payments

Can we ask that all payments (snack money, trip money etc) are paid into the nursery school bank account or through the School Spider app. Please ensure all payments are clearly identified with your child's name and details.



Contacts

- Tel: 01514244687
 - Email: sec@affns.co.uk
- Message us through the School Spider Parent App

Dropping off & Picking up of children

Can we just remind all parents and family members to follow the drop off and pick up times. The purpose of this is so the groups are not continually disturbed during the session

Drop Off

9.00 am

12.45pm

Pick Up

12pm

3.45pm

Privacy Notice

Please find the privacy notice relating to data protection on our noticeboard and website.



Disabled Car Park Spaces

Please do not park in these spaces unless you are registered disabled and are displaying your blue badge. Staff will challenge anyone who is parking here unless they can see badge displayed and you will be asked to move.



Yellow Zig Zags – Parking

Can we ask that parents do not park outside of nursery school on the yellow zig-zags. These lines are here for a reason – the safety of all the children.

