

St James' Church of England First School & Nursery
Park Lane
Alderholt
Dorset
SP6 3AJ



Tel: (01425) 653063 Fax: (01425) 655373
E-mail: office@alderholt.dorset.sch.uk Website: www.alderholt.dorset.sch.uk

Head teacher: Miss Jo Hudson
Assistant Head teacher: Mrs Kathryn Cousins

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Bunnies and Dormice,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to our Nursery. Some of you have been with us before, but to those of you who are new this year, we send a big, warm nursery welcome — we can't wait to spend time getting to know you and your children. The children have been settling in brilliantly, and we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

As some of you may already be aware, we have decided to split our children into two groups this year: Bunnies in the Burrow and Dormice in the Den. The children will still flow between both rooms when appropriate, but these names help make it clearer what your child is engaging in and make Tapestry posts easier to follow. We are really looking forward to another explorative and exciting year in Nursery.

This letter is intended to give you an overview of our routines and expectations so that day-to-day running can go as smoothly as possible. I hope the information below answers any questions you may have at this stage. More details about our curriculum and what we will be exploring this term can be found in the Knowledge Organiser attached to this letter.

Break/Snack times:

- Your child must bring a **named water bottle** each day and will be encouraged to drink from it throughout the day and at lunch times.
- Your child will have a snack break each morning which the Nursery will provide.
- Milk will be offered at snack times as an alternative to water. For snack time the children pour their own drinks into open topped cups.

Lunch time:

- All children bringing a packed lunch (if they are staying for lunch), need to bring it in a **suitable, labelled container** to keep the contents cool, as it will be stored in the classroom where the temperature is variable. **PLEASE NOTE**- we are a nut free school so please no items in lunchboxes that contain nuts of any kind.
- The children will eat their lunches in the Nursery altogether.
- Hot lunches can be ordered, and the school office can provide you with the details of how to do this if you are interested.

What to wear to nursery:

- **All items of clothing should be clearly labelled**, including coats and bags, as children often have the same clothing and coats.
- It is essential that **your child comes to Nursery in appropriate clothing** as we can get a little messy, despite wearing aprons for the messier activities.
- As the colder months approach, your child will need warm clothes, and a waterproof coat as we go outside every day, even in the rain. Again, we engage in messy play outside as well, so an older coat would be better, if you have one.
- A pair of **named wellingtons** that could be kept at Nursery would be ideal for those days when we are exploring outside!
- On different day the children will take part in visits to the outdoor classroom and field/ forest area and will need a **waterproof coat and wellington boots** during the autumn term.
- All children need to bring in a spare set of clothes and If your child still has the occasional toileting accident or is in the process of toilet training it is essential that you send your child in with an appropriate amount of spare clothes, as we do not have a vast supply of spare clothes in Nursery.

Footwear:

- We are trying to teach our Dormice to become independent and this involves being able to change from their shoes into wellingtons and then back into their shoes, with minimal adult assistance. We would therefore request that they wear shoes that have fastenings that they can manage by themselves, and be of a style that is easy to put on and take off.
- On most days the dormice will be taking part in physical development activities that include movement and exercises, so trainer type shoes can be beneficial for this.
- We have access to balancing beams and climbing equipment in the nursery garden, and children love taking part in these activities. At this time of year, with the wetter weather making the ground slippery, **we kindly ask that children do not come into nursery wearing crocs**, as they are not suitable for climbing or active outdoor play. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear, such as trainers, so they can safely join in.

Pushchairs:

- If your child arrives to Nursery in a pushchair, or push along ride on, it is essential that you supply a waterproof cover as they will be parked outside for the whole of the session, as there is no space for them to be stored inside the Nursery.

Tapestry:

- Tapestry is the secure online learning journal which we use to record your child's development. You can access it at any time, using your login details, and we encourage you to, so that you can see what fun your child has at Nursery.
- You can also add your own observations to give a broader view of your child's achievements as children often show different characteristics at home and in the Nursery environment.
- Your child will be allocated a Key person, from the Nursey Team, within the next few weeks of the term.

Observations:

- This year, we will be sharing a weekly group observation every Friday. This will give you an overview of the exciting activities, challenges and learning experiences the children have been involved in, along with some highlights from the week.

- Alongside this, your child will occasionally receive an individual observation from their key worker. These posts will focus on their personal progress, goals and next steps. They won't appear weekly, but they will be shared consistently throughout the year.
- We will also post 'wow moments' when children go above and beyond, as well as updates about any key events happening in Nursery.
- If we are planning an activity that involves tasting food, we will always share allergen information with you beforehand so you have time to raise any questions or concerns. We hope Tapestry will continue to be a space filled with meaningful updates, celebrations and snapshots of your child's development.

If you have any further questions that haven't been covered, or if any problems arise please do not hesitate to contact me, email using staff@alderholt.dorset.sch.uk and I will endeavour to reply at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your support and look forward to working with you all this year.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Taylor Button

Nursery Teacher