



Dormice Newsletter - September 2021

Welcome to Dormice



We would like to welcome to all the Dormice and their families. We are looking forward to a great year working together.

Staffing for Dormice is as follows:

Miss Reeve is the class teacher, and is in class for all sessions except Thursday afternoons.

Miss Alber is in Dormice for all sessions.

Mrs Curry is in Dormice on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Miss Reeve is the key person for all the Dormice, supported by Miss Alber and Mrs Curry. Please speak to any member of staff regarding your child.

On Thursday afternoons Miss Alber will be joined by Miss Frewer.

We know that some of the children are used to calling some of the staff by their first name, but we will encourage them to use their 'school' names.

Obviously staffing is subject to change.

Session details



Morning session - 8.50am to 11.50am

Lunch - 11.50am to 12.20pm

Afternoon session - 12.20pm to 3.20pm

Drop off and collection is via the black 'Dormice' gate in Shepherds Lane.

Breakfast and after school clubs are available, and must be booked and paid for on ParentMail by the end of the proceeding week.

Dates for this half term



Week beginning 25th October - half term

Friday 17th December - last day of autumn term

We will let you know any other dates as the term progresses.

Communication



In order to make drop off and collection times as efficient as possible in the current situation we would be grateful if non-urgent messages could be sent electronically on ClassDojo. If you need to contact us urgently please phone the main office on 01787 283200. Otherwise you can message us on ClassDojo. We may not respond straight away but will get back to you as soon as possible. If you are worried about your child and if they have settled please feel free to contact us – we would rather that than have you worried!

We will share your child's experiences through EExAT. However, we want to spend our time focusing on the children rather than completing paperwork, so will only record significant moments. We welcome you to add observations from home too, which may be added to the 'wow' board in class. As previously

mentioned each child will have a focus week each term - we will let you know when your child's focus week is coming up and will send you a form to complete. However, please don't wait for this if you have any questions about your child. If there is no parent link showing on EExAT you will receive a sheet explaining how to sign up to access your child's account. If your child is new to our school we will provide this as soon as we can add them to the system.

We also post a daily 'class story' on ClassDojo, detailing what the class have done each day. If you do not want your child to be included in photos on the class story please let us know.

Last term we sent out 'all about me' booklets for all the Dormice. Thank you to everyone who completed and returned these. If you haven't we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible. Please let us know if you need another copy.

Individual needs

child's medicine

Talk4Writing and rhyme time



1 - Each half term we have a focus story, which we learn to tell and use as a basis for some of our activities.

This half term our story is 'the little red hen'.

We also have some rhymes to sing which link to our focus story. To listen to the rhymes click this link: [Rhyme time - The Little Red Hen \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

The rhymes are: hickety pickety my red hen, I've got a ball of pastry, Old MacDonald, I am the baker man, pat-a-cake, 5 currant buns, oats and beans and barley grow.

What your child will need



A reminder of the items your child will need for Dormice:

* Uniform is not compulsory in nursery - we advise you to send your child in clothes that are comfortable and that you do not mind if they come home dirty! If you want to buy uniform the link to our supplier is on the school website <https://www.glemsfordprimaryacademy.co.uk/about/uniform/>

* Spare clothes - we have a small supply for emergencies but you are free to send in your own. We can either store a bag for your child and send it home when it needs replenishing, or you can send the basics in each session.

* A bag for your child to bring each time they attend - this could be a small backpack or bookbag, but not both.

* A water bottle with a lid, which will stay in school. Please ensure it is clearly named. We will put fresh water in each day and wash it after use, but please let us know if you ever want to take it home to clean it yourself.

* A pair of wellies to keep in school. We have some spare pairs, but it is much easier for the children if they have their own.

* Items specific to the weather conditions - we go outside whenever possible so the children will need to come prepared for the weather, be it sunhats, wooly hats, gloves etc.

* If your child is having lunch with us they will need to bring a packed lunch, in a clearly named lunch box / bag. Please note that we are a nut-free school, so please ensure that any items in lunchboxes are nut-free. We also ask that grapes are cut in half lengthways. We provide snack of water or milk and fruit and other items. If your child has special dietary requirements please speak to us about this.

* Items specific to your child. These could be related to medical conditions or care needs, such as inhalers or nappies. Again, please speak to us about your child's individual needs.

Please make sure that all of your child's items are clearly named. We encourage the children not to bring in toys from home, but if they need to bring an item as a comforter please make sure it will fit in their bag. We will ask them to leave it in their bag or their drawer, and are unable to accept responsibility for these items.

Library books



During the first few weeks we will issue each of the Dormice with their first library book. They will choose a book to bring home and share with you. Sharing books with your child for a few minutes each day has a great impact on their development. Some top tips are ask your child questions about the book and link what is in the book to the real world. When they are ready for a new book they will need to place the book in the basket in the classroom. We encourage them to choose different books, but sometimes they will choose one that is a favourite!

Drop offs and collections



Following on from the message on school story about drop offs I have spoken to Mr George specifically about Dormice. We have agreed that you will need to say goodbye and leave your child at the bottom of the classroom steps, they will then go up into the classroom. I have prepared this video to share with them to help prepare them for this, which can be viewed on the class story. Due to space and numbers we are unable to safely allow adults in at drop-off at the moment, but will keep this under review. We will work with you to support your child if they are upset and are more than happy for you to ring or message on Dojo to check that they have settled, although we will always contact you if they have not. Collection will also be from the bottom of the steps.

Just to remind you, session times are as follows: Morning session - 8.50am to 11.50am Lunch - 11.50am to 12.20pm Afternoon session - 12.20pm to 3.20pm We try to open the gate in the mornings at 8.45am to avoid crowding. If you are running late and the gate is closed please go to the main school office.

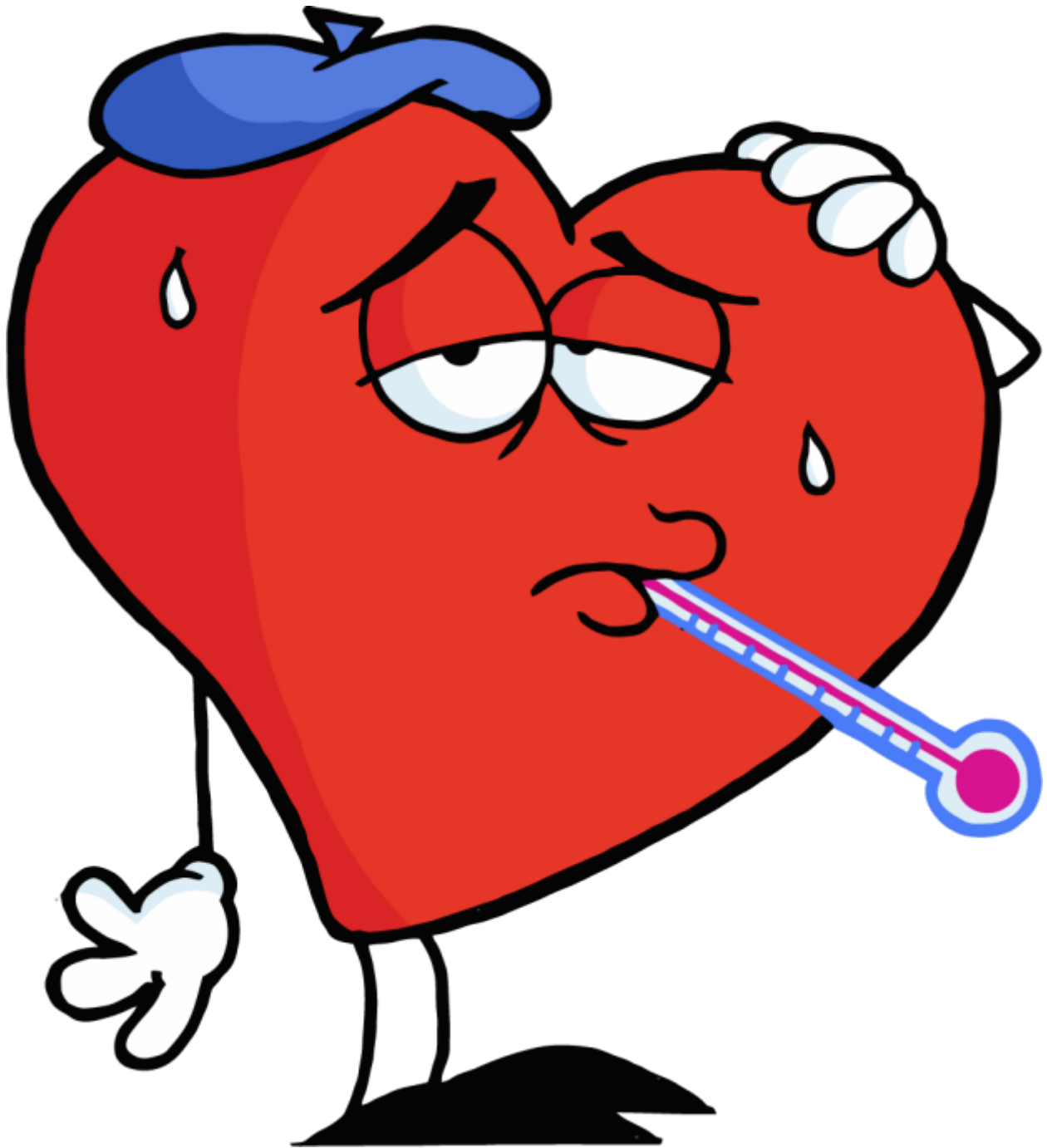
The exception to this will be children going to breakfast / after school club. To begin with the arrangements for these are:

Breakfast club - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Fieldmice class - drop off at Fieldmice gate in Shepherds Lane. Thursdays and Fridays in main school building - drop off at front of main school building.

After school club will be in the main school building every day - pick up from the front of the main building.

Please ensure you book breakfast and after school sessions on ParentMail by the end of the week before they are required. Contact Miss Sorrell with any queries.

Absence



If your child is unwell and will not be attending a session please ring the absence line on 01787 280143, stating your child's name, class and the reason they will not be in. Please note that these messages do not always reach the classroom on the day you ring, so you are also welcome to message us on ClassDojo.

If your child will not be attending their normal sessions for any other reason we would be grateful if you could let us know.

General reminders



- We go outside whatever the weather, so please make sure your child has suitable items to wear (coat, hat, gloves, etc.).
- Please ensure footwear is safe for all activities, including climbing and riding bikes.
- We are a nut-free school, so please check items in your child's packed lunch carefully.
- If your child is having grapes in their lunchbox please cut these in half lengthways.
- If you need one-off additional sessions for your child please contact us - these are charged privately and must be paid for before the session. We will check availability and let you know if we can accommodate your request.

And finally...



Please contact us if you have any concerns or queries about your child – we want to work with you to support your child to ensure they are happy and confident learners.

In these times things may change, and we will keep you updated about these. We ask that you do the same.

We look forward to the next year!

The Dormice team :)