

THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

Newsletter - Term Three February 2019

We have lots of disappointed children this morning (and a few adults) after the promised snowfall did not arrive overnight. So instead of an opportunity to build snowmen on the field we are splashing around in puddles – oh joy! Please do take time to read the information on the school website about severe weather (parent news) and the arrangements that might be in place when we are open on a snow day.

We would like to encourage our children to take pride in their school and own appearance. This does mean wearing the correct uniform and being presentable at all times. Hair should be neat and tidy and long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons and to prevent the spread of head lice. Hair accessories should be small and discrete in blue, grey or black. No fancy hair accessories. Children should be wearing black shoes - trainers are not allowed, unless for genuine medical reasons where parents can produce evidence. During the winter months all children in Years 3-6 should also be wearing a tie. We appreciate your support in ensuring our children represent our school with pride.

Parent Forum – Questionnaire

At the beginning of this term I shared a document with you outlining the terms of reference for a proposed parent forum group. The questionnaire link can still be found on the website www.downs.kent.sch.uk/parent-news/parent-forum. I do encourage you to respond to this short questionnaire, which will take just five minutes of your time. So far out of 384 pupils, only 18 pupils have been represented by 10 family responses.

Notable Achievements

Children are invited to share with the whole school their achievements in after school activities.

Sienna Y5 – awarded Junior Princess of Princesses

Amazing achievement – well done

Office – Messages

Miss Hopper will be off until half term. This does mean that Mrs Cureton will be twice as busy. Therefore, it would be really helpful if families could remember to use the home school contact book for messages for class teachers or speak with teachers at the classroom door. Monies for trips and school dinners should be placed in envelopes and given to class teachers. Visits to the office should be for the delivery of medicines (and to complete medicine administration consent forms), collecting of children with prior arrangement and for appointments with staff. We would appreciate your support at this busy time.

Changes to Forest School – T4 and T5

Year 3 will now be going to forest school next term, week beginning 25th February.

Year 1 will now be going to forest school in term 5, week beginning 23rd April.

Breakfast Club and before school supervision

Children arriving for breakfast club should be brought to the breakfast club door by an adult who should wait with them until a member of staff opens the door to let the children in.

Children in Years R-4 should be supervised by an adult until classroom doors open at 8.45am. They should wait with their adult and not be playing on the playground, equipment or grass banks. This is for their safety.

To avoid any problems, please aim to arrive for when classroom doors open rather than before 8.45am.

SEVERE WEATHER

Let's keep our fingers crossed that there is no snow this winter.

However, in the event of the school having to close, information will be available via:

- KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/winter or www.kentclosures.co.uk
- the school website www.downs.kent.sch.uk
- by text
- local radio stations – Heart FM and BBC Radio Kent



“If we could not read or write what would life be like?”

Discuss together as a family....share your best examples with your class teacher

DATES FOR DIARY

Dates for the new academic year: 2018 - 2019

Term One 3rd September 2018 – 18th October 2018

Half term break 19th October – 28th October 2018

Term Two 29th October – 19th December 2018

Christmas break 20th December – 2nd January 2019

Term Three 3rd January – 14th February 2019

Half term break 15th February – 24th February 2019

Term Four 25th February – 5th April 2019

Easter break 6th April – 22nd April 2019

Term Five 23rd April – 24th May 2019

Half term break 25th May – 2nd June 2019

Term Six 3rd June – 23rd July 2019

Staff Development Days when school is closed to children

Friday 19th October 2018
Monday 26th November 2018
Friday 15th February 2019
Friday 21st June 2019
Monday 24th June 2019

Term Three

Tuesday 5 th February	Year 4 to Dover Museum
Thursday 7 th February	KS2 DLA Spelling Bee at Parochial
Thursday 7 th February	Lower school celebration assembly – invite only
Friday 8 th February	Middle school celebration assembly – invite only
Friday 8 th February	Year 1 parents invited in to play board games 2.45pm
Tuesday 12 th February	Upper school celebration assembly – invite only
Wednesday 13 th February	Year 5 Viking day (parents invited in at 2.15pm)
Thursday 14 th February	Last day of term three for children – normal finish time
Friday 15 th February	Training day – school closed to children

Term Four

Monday 25 th February	Children return to school
Monday 25 th February	Year 3 Forest School starts
Mon 25 th / Tues 26 th February	Hearing and Vision checks Reception
Friday 1 st March	Year 3 swimming starts
4th/5 th /6 th /7 th March	Book Fair
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 2 nd April	Parent Consultations
Thursday 4 th April	Parent Consultations
Friday 5 th April	Last day of term four – children can be collected from 1.30pm

Term Five

Tuesday 23 rd April	Children return to school = SUMMER UNIFORM
Tuesday 23 rd April	Year 1 Forest School starts
May	Year 2 (KS1) assessment term
Monday 13 th -17 th May	SATS week for Year 6
Friday 24 th May	Year six swimming (session one)
Friday 24 th May	Last day of term five – normal finish time

Term Six

Monday 3 rd June	Children return to school
Monday 3 rd June	Year 6 forest school starts
Friday 7 th June	Year 6 swimming (4 more sessions)
Friday 21 st June	Training day – school closed to children
Monday 24 th June	Training day – school closed to children
Thursday 4 th July	Transition day – year 6 to new schools
Tuesday 9 th July	DLA Summer Cup
Thursday 11 th July	Reports Home
Friday 12 th July	Sports Day / Open Afternoon
Monday 15 th July	Reserve Sports Day / Open Afternoon
Monday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers Service TBC
Tuesday 23 rd July	Last day of term - children can be collected from 1.30pm