

**THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE
CEP SCHOOLS
Newsletter - Term Four March 2019**

The half term break was certainly very pleasant and it was lovely that it continued into the beginning of this week. I hope that you all managed to make the most of being outdoors. Today, Friday is a slight change but more the weather we should expect at this time of year. Children do still need coats in school and it is winter uniform until the end of this term.

Please see the letter sent with this newsletter from the Chair of the governing body updating you on the progress with the DEALT academy proposal.

Our learning theme this term is ***“Make it Work”***

Reception

In Reception we will be looking at space. To launch this topic the children will discover a ‘fake’ rocket landing with a friendly alien called Sortan. Sortan has a variety of challenges for us to investigate including opportunities to develop our measuring, counting, addition and subtraction skills. We will be exploring things which go fizz, pop and bang to help Sortan on his journey home!

Year Two

We will be focusing our learning on all things to do with castles. The children will be developing their collaboration skills and learning how to be inquisitive which will include asking and answering questions about artefacts. Our maths focus this term will be on different measurements including length, height, mass capacity and temperature.

Year Four

We will look at different volcanoes around the world and how they work, making our own models to demonstrate the process and the changing states of liquids. We will learn about living things and their habitats and how animals and plants make it ‘work’ for them. We will develop our DT skills through careful construction of different models and designs, looking at the best system used to make things move and work.

Parent Forum – Questionnaire

Thank you to those who took the time to respond to this questionnaire. We had an 8% response rate with most of this group agreeing a good idea but with only a few wishing to participate in the group. Suggestions for topic discussions are very helpful but now some thought needs to be given on how to move forward.

Year One

We will be finding out all about lighthouses based around The Lighthouse Keeper books. The children will be making a lighthouse, using mixed media to create pictures of lighthouses and learning about the features of our locality and where lighthouses are positioned. In RE we will be thinking about why Easter is important to Christians.

Year Three

We will be looking at famous inventors and we are planning on becoming inventors ourselves! We will be using design and technology to create our inventions and writing scripts to advertise them! We will be discussing the Easter story and the feelings of the people that were involved.

Year Five

We are planning to link our learning to our Science topic of Forces and topic learning about Circuses. Our exploration of this topic will involve using DT skills in order to create Circus tents and art skills to recreate Circus art work. In RE, as we explore Salvation, we ask the question “What did Jesus do to save human beings?”

Year Six

We will continue to look at different genres of writing, including; arguments, biographical reports and narrative writing. We will continue reading Street Child and also developing the children’s inference and deduction skills. In maths we will be focussing on how children apply their mathematical knowledge to solving multi-step problems which in turn will help their deeper understanding of this subject.



“Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?”

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

Notable Achievements

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

Maisie R – gym proficiency award L8
Ruby T – Beaver of week trophy

Amazing achievement – well done

Term Three Attendance Review

We would like to thank all parents for ensuring that their children are attending school and getting to school on time.

Our attendance from the beginning of September 2018 until 19th December 2018 is currently 96.0%.

RL	94.9%	2G	95.4%	4G	96.3%	6T	97.7%
RS	93.3%	2O	95.6%	4C	96.6%	6C	94.8%
1M	97.1%	3EU	96.8%	5T	95.9%	Whole school	95.8%
1P	95.1%	3B	95.9%	5A	96.4%		

Please remember to phone in and inform us of your child's absence. It is helpful if you can give their full name and class as well as a reason for absence.

World Book Day / Comic Relief

Thursday 7th March 2019 – The children have been invited to share a favourite book with their class and, if they wish, to dress up as a character from their favourite book.

Friday 15th March 2019 – Comic Relief day – we would like to invite the children to wear something red and donate the change from their pocket money to this worthwhile cause.

Staffing news

Mrs Glanville's baby was born at the end of the half term break. Mother and daughter are doing well. We welcome Mrs Anderson who will be covering Mrs Glanville's teaching responsibilities during her absence.

Online Safety

It is inevitable that children using online apps and videos will occasionally come across content that is unsuitable. It is important to continue to support them through talking to your child about their online use, ensure they know they can report anything to you that worries them, setting boundaries about when, how and where they can use their devices, doing your research and ensure parental controls are in place. Please see the attached letter for more information and useful websites to support you and your child.

DLA Spelling Bee and Football Match

Two teams of four (a year 3/4 and year 5/6 team), represented our school at the **DLA spelling bee**. Both teams came first in the semi-final heats and then came third overall out of the 12 schools that took part. Well done.

Our **football team** played St Mary's in the Graham Stabbs Cup. At the final whistle it was a draw and so it went to extra time, then penalties and sudden death. In the end the team were triumphant. Well done.

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

Milk – Children can have milk at morning break:

- Free milk for children under the age of five
- Free milk for children who are currently a free school meal child
- £1.10 a week for children aged five or older and not a free school meal child.
- If your child is a pupil premium child contact school if you would like milk for your child at no cost to you

For more information contact the school office or register at www.coolmilk.com

Clubs – Term Four

R, 1, 2 – Boccia with PACE, Lego, Colouring, Games

Y3, 4, 5 and 6 – Tchoukball PACE, Lego, Late night library, craft, cookery (Y5), film, Mindfulness, Homework/Writing

Payment and consent forms - Please do ensure that if your child is offered a club that the payment and consent form are returned before the first night. Please do remember to collect from clubs on time – 4pm for clubs run by school staff and 4.15pm for clubs run by outside providers such as PACE.

Clubs do need to have 8 or more children to run. This term we do have good numbers but that is not always the case. Currently, we are operating clubs at a loss – this means that the school is subsidising the clubs from our main budget. This cannot continue and we may have to review our provision and our costings.

Dates for diary on the next page

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 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 /7th March	Book Fair
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – favourite book and dress up as favourite character
Friday 14 th March	Comic Relief – wear red and donate spare pocket money
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 13th-17th 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