

# THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

## Newsletter - Term Five April 2019

Welcome back to the start of our summer terms. Hopefully, the weather will continue its journey towards many warm, sunny and dry days – the children are certainly happy to be on the field. We had a lovely Easter service with Reverend Canon Seth Cooper at St Mary’s Church this week and I was very proud of our children’s excellent behaviour which was commented on not just in church but on our walk to and from the service.

Although we are heading into nicer weather and in summer uniform it is important children still have in school a coat, lightweight jacket or waterproof to give that extra layer of protection when we wish to still be outside despite inclement weather – the field can be particularly chilly at times and light showers are still a possibility.

*Sports Day – please see note on diary page*

Our learning theme this term is **“Blank Canvas”**

### Reception

To launch this topic we are visiting the Turner Gallery to see where artists display their work and we will be looking at a different artist each week. We will be planting sunflower seeds and regularly observing the changes and measuring how tall our seedlings grow. This term the focus in RE is on the Old Testament stories.

### Year One

Year 1 will be using the artwork 'Tropical Storm with a Tiger' by Henri Rousseau as our spring board for learning. The children will be starting their writing journey based around The Tiger who came to Tea. In Mathematics we will be multiplying and dividing numbers, exploring mass and identifying coins and notes. Our RE topic this term is Judaism.

### Year Two

We will be drawing inspiration for our writing by looking at the painting 'Bathers at Asnières' by Georges Seurat. We will be using the book 'Katie and the Bathers' by James Mayhew as the starting point for story writing. This term in RE we will be looking at the World Faith of Islam.

### Year Three

We will be looking at artists such as Georgia O’Keefe and Monet; exploring their use of flowers in their artwork. We will be reading the story of 'The Secret Garden', using this text as the inspiration for our creative writing! We are learning about the Kingdom of God in RE. We will be discussing Pentecost and the impact then and now.

### Year Four

Our focus this term will be on Ancient Greece and the culture and history related to it. We will begin by designing and drawing our own mythical beasts and using a range of adjectives to describe our creatures. We will read and study different Greek Gods and Goddesses and create our own mythical stories. In RE we will be studying the Hindu religion

### Year Five

This topic will have an art and geography focus and we will specifically look at the work J.M.W. Turner. Our exploration of this topic will involve an investigation of coastal areas and opportunities to create pieces of landscape art in the style of J.M.W. Turner. In RE, we will be learning about Judaism.

### Assessment Dates.

**Year 2** – during the month of May all of Year 2 will sit tests in reading, grammar and maths.  
**Year 6** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May all of Year 6 will sit tests in reading, grammar and maths.  
**Year 1** Phonics tests are Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Year 4** Multiplication tests take place between 10<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### Year Six

We will be looking at some of the works created by Pablo Picasso. We are approaching literacy this term focussing on the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and the children will be looking at how crime, punishment and redemption is portrayed through the book. Our RE lessons will focus on Islam. Although we have a vast amount of revision to cover this term, the children will still receive an engaging curriculum.



**“Which Bible stories are special and why?”**

*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.*

Natalie S Y4, Maisie R Y2 and Lucia D Y2 all proudly shared their dance shields.

Fiona Y3 shared her Level 7 Gymnastics Proficiency award.

*Amazing achievement – well done*

### Term Four 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 is currently 96.01%.

RL	95.8%	2G	95.7%	4G	96.4%	6T	97.5%
RS	94.1%	2O	95.7%	4C	95.9%	6C	95.1%
1M	97.1%	3EU	96.7%	5T	96.1%	<b>Whole school</b>	<b>96.01%</b>
1P	95.1%	3B	95.9%	5A	96.7%		

*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.*

### Summer Uniform

- Plain white polo neck shirts (no ties)
- Black/grey shorts/skirts
- Blue check summer dresses
- Sun hat/baseball cap (*optional*)
- Black school shoes or substantial sandals (no 'jelly' shoes')

*Trainers are not allowed, unless for genuine medical reasons where parents can produce evidence. 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 still needs coats in school everyday***

### Competitions

Last term we took part in Gymnastics and Tennis Kent Sporting events. Once again our children were proud ambassadors for our school.

**Gymnastics** – The year 3/4 team came third in all categories and the Y5/6 team came second. As a result the year 5/6 team will compete in a final during term 6.

**Tennis** – There were a large group of schools taking part and our team of four did really well but were not able to make the top two for a place in the final.

Well done to all our participants.

### Walmer in Bloom

Once again we have a number of successful entrants in the schools Walmer in Bloom poster competition.

Leila K	Y4	senior winner & overall winner
Sofie G	Y6	highly commended
Zara M	Y3	highly commended
Isabella F	Y3	highly commended
May J	Y5	highly commended
Ruby M	Y4	highly commended
Ben J	Y3	highly commended
Luke M	Y3	highly commended

Laurie K	Y2	junior winner and runner up
Charlie B	Y1	highly commended
Isabella	Y2	highly commended
Lucia D	Y2	highly commended

### Dogs

A number of dogs are being tied up to our internal fencing/external fencing and then left unattended. Large numbers of children leave our site and may not have an adult with them. They can be tempted to approach these dogs but there is no owner there to ensure that it is safe for them to do so. We understand that you consider your dog to be safe but there is no guarantee that they won't act out of character when faced with a large group of children approaching. Someone needs to be with your dog whilst dropping off or collecting your child/ren and if this is not possible I would advise not bringing them up to school. We do not permit dogs (of any size) on school grounds and therefore you do need to consider the practicalities of the school run. Thank you for your cooperation.

**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](http://www.coolmilk.com)***

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Dates for the new academic year: 2018 - 2019

#### Term One 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Half term break 19<sup>th</sup> October – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

#### Term Two 29<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Christmas break 20<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

#### Term Three 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Half term break 15<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

#### Term Four 25<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Easter break 6<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

#### Term Five 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Half term break 25<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

#### Term Six 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

#### Staff Development Days when school is closed to children

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

#### Term Five

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Children return to school = SUMMER UNIFORM

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Year 1 Forest School starts

#### May

**Year 2 (KS1) assessment term**

#### Monday 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May

**SATS week for Year 6**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Year six swimming (session one)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Year six swimming (session two)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Last day of term five – normal finish time

#### Term Six

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Children return to school

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Year 6 forest school starts

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Year 6 swimming (3 more sessions)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 1 Phonics assessment week**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

**Year 4 Multiplication tests (3 week window)**  
Training day – school closed to children

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Burning the Boats production (choir and actors from The Downs CEP)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Training day – school closed to children

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Dover Fire Station Open Day, 11:00---16:00, Ladywell, Dover

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Transition day – year 6 to new schools

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

DLA Summer Cup

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Reports Home

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Sports Day / Open Afternoon\*\*

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Reserve Sports Day / Open Afternoon

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Year 6 Leavers Service TBC

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Last day of term - children can be collected from 1.30pm

**\*\*Sports Day** – we are reviewing our current format for sports day and one of the suggestions is to have three sessions throughout the morning, one for each of the teams.

**We would welcome any feedback on this idea. Please send any communication in by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.**

Thank you for the one comment we received before Easter which was a request to consider an afternoon session for sports day.

We will take this into consideration however, there are a number of reasons that this has not occurred before:

- The afternoon is shorter
- Less staff are available in the afternoons
- The mornings are cooler

Any further comments on this appreciated.