

# THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

*"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."* (Matthew: 17 v20)

## Newsletter – Term One September 2019

Welcome back to another busy and exciting year. I hope you all had a wonderful break.

Whilst the start of this year is tinged with sadness at saying goodbye to Mrs Carley and Lucas Dobson, it is also a time to reflect on how our wonderful communities; friends and family, schools, Deal and the wider county, has come together to support, encourage and join together in prayer (regardless of belief or denomination) despite such difficult times. It is nothing short of heart-warming and makes me feel proud to be a part of this community.

Last year parents, pupils, staff and governors were given the opportunity to say what makes our federation a great place to be. As a result of this work, the words **family** and **nurture** were prominent themes and very much reflect the above. This work has now culminated in a new mission (strap line - above) and vision statement (as written below). We will continue with our work in this area during the coming year to embed our values further in all that we do.

I look forward to meeting all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families.

Our vision for the Federation of The Downs and Northbourne CEP Schools is to put *God* and *Family* at the heart of all we do. As a *nurturing* community, we use the parable of The Mustard Seed *"...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."* (Matthew: 17 v20) This guides the way we value and treat all members of our school community. Through our pastoral care and our rich curriculum experiences, we provide a safe and dynamic learning environment in which all can flourish.

To grow in: **Faith, Love, Compassion, Kindness, Respect and Forgiveness**

Our six Christian Values are at the heart of our vision. Every day we aspire to grow in **Faith, Love, Compassion, Kindness, Respect and Forgiveness**, so that our school family may experience the joy and hope of **"life in all its fullness"** (John: 10 v10)

### Curriculum

Throughout the last academic year our children and staff have actively participated in a curriculum review.

In working parties we have discussed every subject area and the expectations for the children at the end of each year as set out in the National Curriculum.

This has also involved extensive research and consultation with our staff and children the results of which have led us to redesign our provision for this academic year.

This year we are focusing on three overarching themes to direct learning:

Autumn 1 & 2	It's a Wonderful World
Spring 3 & 4	Horrible Histories
Summer 5 & 6	Blank Canvas

We are also introducing a new PSHE scheme of work.

*More detail can be read in both the attached letters.*

### Home Learning

We have also looked at homework and how it has impacted on learning and standards. As a school we wish to give our children every opportunity to succeed and take ownership of their own learning journey.

#### **What will homework look like now?**

We will be referring to this as home learning.

Home learning information will be sent home at the beginning of a new overarching theme.

The children will be presented with a selection of challenges that will enhance their sub theme learning in school.

These challenges will be directly linked to the National Curriculum areas.

Children should complete a minimum number of challenges as directed by their teacher.

They can bring the completed challenge into school at any point in the theme when it will be celebrated in the classroom.

*More detail can be read in the attached letter.*



***"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."***

(Matthew: 17 v20)

*Discuss, with your family, what this means to you.....  
Share your best examples with your class teacher*

### School dinners - 2019-2020 - Year 3

Children moving from year 2 to year 3 in September will now be required to pay for school dinners unless you have registered for free school meals. A school dinner costs £2.30 each day. It is quick and easy to check if you are eligible for free school meals. Visit <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals> before September.

#### For information

Class teachers are your first port of call if you have any queries regarding how your child is getting on at school.

Team leaders are there to support class teachers and families when further discussions are perhaps needed. Our team leaders are: Miss Peerman (Lower school – Years R and 1); Mrs Ewins (Middle school team leader – Years 2, 3 and 4); Mrs Tysoe (upper school – years 5 and 6).

Concerns around academic progress will come to Mrs Mitchell our SENco but if you have any worries about family matters, Mr Turner, our Safeguarding Officer will be more than happy to meet with you.

Miss Leighton (Head Teacher) and Ms Luxford (Deputy Head) are more than happy to follow up any further enquiries parents may have.

#### Home/School contact book

If the class teacher needs to know something about your child such as change in after school pick up arrangements, medicine in office, bit of TLC, poor night's sleep, not able to do PE etc. please use the home/school contact book. Messages via the office should be as a result of a change during the day that couldn't be communicated in advance.

#### Breakfast Club

Due to the need to increase staffing as well as the general increase in the cost of groceries, it will be necessary to put up the cost of daily breakfast sessions to **£2.50** from September. This will still represent good value for the breakfast the children eat each morning.

**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)**

#### Clubs – Term One

Information about clubs for term one will be coming home shortly. **Clubs will start week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September** and run for 4 weeks. Clubs for reception will start in term two.

**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.

### Notable Achievements

#### A number of children have shared with the whole school their achievements in after school activities

Isabella F – silver award for gymnastics  
Hugo T – stage 3 swimming  
Natalie S and Hannah M – most improved at cubs  
Isla DK – Race for Life  
Sienna F – Dinosaur run  
Sienna F, Amiya E, Adele F, Evie B – Lorry Pull  
Emily and Rosie R – shared their summer reading challenge certificates. We also celebrated all the children who took part in the reading challenge and the fact we came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 21 schools.

*Amazing achievement – well done*

#### Admission to Secondary School September 2019

All Kent parents of current year 6 children will be required to complete the authority's Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) online at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). You will be required to name up to FOUR secondary schools in order of preference. All forms have to be completed and submitted by **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**. More information can be found on the letter we sent you in May – this is also on the website with Year 6 newsletters.

#### Uniform

We shall remain in summer uniform this term; therefore Years 3-6 will not require ties until we notify you of the change.

Uniform information is under the uniform link on our website. In particular note that hair accessories should be small and discrete in blue, grey or black. Trainers should not be worn unless for medical reasons. **Earrings** have to be removed for all PE and swimming lessons.

#### The Downs - NUT free

A reminder that we request parents to consider very carefully what they send into school for packed lunches or class treats. In particular we remind you that we are a nut free school and so **no nut** products are to be used in packed lunches. This includes peanut butter spread, peanuts or peanut based biscuits.

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Dates for the new academic year: 2019 - 20120

#### Term One 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

*Half term break 18<sup>th</sup> October – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

#### Term Two 28<sup>th</sup> October – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

*Christmas break 19<sup>th</sup> December – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020*

#### Term Three 6<sup>th</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

*Half term break 15<sup>th</sup> February – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020*

#### Term Four 24<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020\*

*Easter break 4<sup>th</sup> April – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020\**

#### Term Five 20<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

*Half term break 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020*

#### Term Six 1<sup>st</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

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

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Please note the date for the Federation Easter break is different to the published Kent Term dates by two days either side.**

### Term One September 2019

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	School closed to children – training day
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Children return to school
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R Home Visits
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R Home Visits
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R Home visits
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 Forest School starts
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R play and stay sessions
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R play and stay sessions
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 1 Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R in all morning (until 11.30am)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 4 Meet and Greet in hall at 2.30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R in all morning (until 11.30am)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Kent Test all day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R in until 1pm (to have lunch)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 swimming to start
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm (changed from 4 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Dover Girls and Boys Grammar – Year 6 Tests for Secondary entrance
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R in all day from today
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 6 Residential Trip
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R Meet and Greet for parents in hall at 2.30pm
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents evening 3.30pm-6.30pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term – normal finish time

### Term Two

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed to children – training day
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Children return to school
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu Vaccinations Years 1-6
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 3 swimming starts
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 forest school starts