

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 Three January 2020

Happy New Year

Welcome back to a new term and a new year.

Hopefully all your festive celebrations went well and time was enjoyed with family and friends. The children certainly seem very pleased with all their Christmas gifts and celebrations.

The staff and children look forward to working together with you as we embark on another exciting new term. Our theme until Easter is Horrible Histories and home learning will soon be available in book bags and on the school website.

Contact details – do remember to keep the school office informed of any changes to any of your emergency contact numbers and address details.

A Prayer *(from our school prayer book)*

Dear God

Please help me to respect others by being kind, helpful and listening.

Help me to respect others feelings and thoughts so they are always happy.

Please help me to be respectful of the planet by recycling and not littering

By Isabel Phillips

Community Neighbours

Our school is situated in a residential area and as such we do need to respect the bylaws in relation to this.

Please be courteous and not block driveways, park in the disabled bays, drop litter, walk across private gardens, sit on private boundary walls or lean against fences and cars. Please be thoughtful about where you are smoking/vaping by considering the residents and passer's by. Please do continue to observe the road markings around the school by not parking on pavements which block the children's safe passage.

Giving this consideration to our neighbours supports our ongoing positive relationship with them.

Reboot the New Year

Upper school are having a particular focus on reminding the children how we need to look after ourselves by drinking plenty of water and eating healthy snacks.

It is useful though to remind all our children that they should have a water bottle in school every day and that we encourage them to bring in to school a healthy snack for mid-morning.

Anniversary

The foundation stone for the new Downs CE Primary School was laid in 1969 and the school opened to pupils in September 1970.

We are celebrating this 50 year milestone by spending this week focusing on what life was like in the 1970's – fashion, toys, technology, music and film etc.

On Friday during collective worship we will hear from some ex pupils that attended during that time.

Facebook - # *nothing is impossible.*

Remember we have launched "The Downs CEP" facebook page so if you have not liked the page yet, please do find us.

This does not replace our traditional ways of sharing information such as through newsletters, the website and texts. However, it is a place to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and to share key information.

Governor newsletter

Please find attached with this school newsletter a second update from the Governors of The Federation of the Downs and Northbourne CEP Schools that provides an insight into who they are and the role they play as part of the leadership team at the Federation.



Would you rather be inside all day or outside all day?

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

Notable Achievements

Please remember to share with us your achievements outside of school – certificates, awards, trophies, judo/karate belts etc. etc.

We celebrate these during whole school collective worship on a Monday and a Friday.

Then you also get a mention here in the newsletter.

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 18th December 2019 is currently 95.5%.

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|-----|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| RS | 96.1% | 2G | 96.1% | 4G | 96.9% | 6T | 96.1% |
| RST | 95.2% | 2O | 95.7% | 4B | 95.8% | 6C | 96.7% |
| 1P | 91.8% | 3M | 94.8% | 5T | 96.2% | Whole school | 95.5% |
| 1H | 92.6% | 3E | 96.5% | 5AU | 96.6% | | |

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.

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 Three

Clubs will start **week beginning 13th January** and run for 4 weeks.

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.*

Dates for diary on the next page

Midday Supervisor

Are you an enthusiastic and self-motivated person?

Do you think you would be interested in being a midday supervisor?

Our midday's work term time only, for 5 hours and 50 minutes per week and the position is subject to full DBS check, safeguarding procedures and a six month probationary period.

If you think you might be interested please contact Ms Luxford via the school office to discuss the role further.

Uniform

Children are required to wear the correct full uniform as described on our website and in our prospectus.

Children who are not in the correct uniform are not following the school rules.

Unless you have provided medical evidence and /or engaged in a conversation with Mrs Mitchell, it is our expectation that all children will be in their full uniform.

UNIFORM SHOP

This will be open Wednesdays 3.00pm-3.30pm. Order forms are also available on the website under the "about us" tab if you cannot get to the shop on Wednesdays.

The form can be completed and sent in to school, with payment or online payment, in a named envelope. The uniform can then be collected from the office.

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, Nutella, peanuts or peanut based biscuits.

DATES FOR DIARY

Dates for the new academic year: 2019 - 2020

Term One 2nd September 2019 – 18th October 2019

Half term break 18th October – 27th October 2019

Term Two 28th October – 18th December 2019

Christmas break 19th December – 5th January 2020

Term Three 6th January – 14th February 2020

Half term break 15th February – 23rd February 2020

Term Four 24th February – 3rd April 2020*

Easter break 4th April – 19th April 2020*

Term Five 20th April – 22nd May 2020

Half term break 23rd May – 31st May 2020

Term Six 1st June – 22nd July 2020

Staff Development Days when school is closed to children

Monday 2nd September 2019

Monday 28th October 2019

Monday 24th February 2020

Friday 26th June 2020

Monday 29th 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 Three

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| Monday 6 th January | Children return to school |
| Friday 10 th January | Year 3 swimming starts |
| Monday 13 th January | Year 5 forest school starts |
| Friday 7 th February | Reports home |
| Friday 14 th February | Last day of term three – normal finish |

Term Four

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| Monday 24 th February | School closed to children – training day |
| Tuesday 25 th February | Children return to school |
| Friday 28 th February | Year 3 swimming starts |
| Monday 2 nd March | Year 1 forest school starts |
| Friday 3 rd April | Last day of term three - children can be collected from 1.30pm. |

Term Five

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| Monday 20 th April | Children return to school |
| Monday 20 th April | Year 3 forest school starts |
| All of May | Year 2 statutory assessment month |
| 4 th -15 th May | Assessment weeks for whole school |
| 11 th -15 th May | Year 6 statutory assessments |
| Friday 22 nd May | Last day of term five – normal finish |

Term Six

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| Monday 1 st June | Children return to school |
| Monday 1 st June | Year 6 forest school starts |
| Friday 5 th June | Year 6 swimming starts |
| Monday 8 th June | Year 1 statutory phonics assessment |
| Monday 8 th June | Year 4 statutory multiplication assessment |
| Wednesday 22 nd July | Last day of term six - children can be collected from 1.30pm. |