

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 Four March 2020

Welcome back.

We have now entered the Christian calendar of Lent. Lent takes place in the 40 days leading up to Easter, and is treated as a period of reflection and a time for fasting from food and festivities. The fasting period is to remember when Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days despite being tempted.

Canon Seth, Reverend Steve and Hendy led collective worship on Shrove Tuesday for all the children, explaining the meaning of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday in relation to Lent – the older children were very excited by the burning of the palms to create the ash, that Canon Seth then used to mark the sign of the cross on his forehead.

I hope that those of you who have given up something for Lent are maintaining your will power and feel supported by those around you.

Hopefully, the risk of snow causing any real disruption is now fading but "severe weather" information is still at the bottom of this newsletter just in case.

A Prayer (from our school prayer book)

Dear God

Thank you for giving us friends and family who support us through the good and bad times. Thank you for giving us friends to laugh with and family to love and share memories with. I pray for my family and friends, for their health, their happiness and safety. Please God protect my family and friends.

Amen

By Ella Charters 5AU

DfE & Public Health England Guidance

In light of the growing cases of Coronavirus, both the Department for Education and Public Health England have asked schools to help promote the message of good basic hygiene. Here is the advice from the World Health Organisation:

- **Wash your hands frequently** Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty.
- **Practice respiratory hygiene** When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with soap and water.

In school we promote the practice of "catch it, bin it, stop it". Mr Ford ensures that all classes have access to tissues and that there is plenty of liquid soap in all the school dispensers.

Please help us to support the pupils with good basic hygiene practices.

Staffing update

Mrs Mitchell will be leaving us at the end of this term to spend more time with her family. We will be very sorry to see her go but we all wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Barnes will be joining us as the new SENCO after the Easter break and I know that you will all make her feel very welcome.

Year 6 – Secondary Placements

You will be receiving information about school offers on March 2nd (online) or by March 3rd (post). Places have to be accepted/declined by 16th March and any appeals have to be lodged by 27th March following the instructions that you receive with your letter from admissions. Appeals are held between April and June 2020.

Please do contact Miss Leighton after the 4th March if you have any enquiries/questions/concerns.

BOOK FAIR

Our book fair will be in school next week and available after school 3.10-3.30pm on Monday 2nd March, Tuesday 3rd March and Thursday 5th March.

Don't forget to bring your World Book Day voucher



Doing your best is more important than being the best.

What do you think?

Discuss, with your family, what this means to you.....

Share your best examples with your class teacher

Notable Achievements

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

Rudy A (Y1), Zak S (Y 5) and Fiona Y (Y4) all awarded a medal from Invicta Martial Arts for showing true “Kung Fu spirit”

Luke H (Y4) has been scouted to play for Gillingham

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 14th February is currently **96.0%**.

RS	96.6%	2G	96.4%	4G	96.6%	6T	96.1%
RST	94.9%	2O	96.4%	4B	96.7%	6C	96.5%
1P	92.4%	3M	95.2%	5T	96.6%	Whole school	96.0%
1H	93.7%	3E	95.2%	5AU	96.5%		

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

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.

Clubs – Four

Clubs will start **week beginning 2nd March** 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

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 Four

Monday 24th February

School closed to children – training day

Tuesday 25th February

Children return to school

Friday 28th February

Year 3 swimming starts

Monday 2nd March

Year 1 forest school starts

Monday 2nd March

Book Fair in school hall on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3.10pm

Saturday 21st March

Blessing of Old St Marys (900 years old) with Bishop of Dover

Tuesday 31st March

Parent Consultations

Thursday 2nd April

Parent Consultations

Friday 3rd April

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

Sunday 12th April

BBC Live recording of service at St Mary's with our school choir and Bishop of Dover

Term Five

Monday 20th April

Children return to school

Monday 20th April

Year 3 forest school starts

Friday 8th May

Bank Holiday

All of May

Year 2 statutory assessment month

4th-22nd May

Assessment weeks for whole school

11th-15th May

Year 6 statutory assessments

Friday 22nd May

Last day of term five – normal finish

Term Six

Monday 1st June

Children return to school

Monday 1st June

Year 6 forest school starts

Friday 5th June

Year 6 swimming starts

Monday 8th June

Year 1 statutory phonics assessment

Monday 8th June

Year 4 statutory multiplication assessment

Wednesday 22nd July

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