

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 2020

Welcome back to school – not only a new academic year but a return from lockdown.

The staycation summer holiday weather was a wonderful bonus and I hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful coastal areas of beauty.

It has been a delight to see all our children again – they all look smart in their uniform and have all grown so tall!! This week we are welcoming our new reception children and their families in for play and stay sessions and look forward to seeing them grow in independence as they settle into our school family.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that the children have adapted well to the "new normal" in school including the start and end of day routines. Please do continue to help us to keep the children safe by ensuring that paths are kept as clear as possible. Either standing well to one side, or even waiting on the other side of the road, until it is time to drop off or collect, would be helpful. This would avoid children and families walking in the road. Congestion can also be eased by limiting the number of family members doing the school run.

Children do need to have a water bottle in school (water only) every day and we are trying to get outside daily so ensuring they have layers for all weathers – we have been fortunate so far and long may it continue but.....this is the UK!

For information

Class teachers are your first port of call if you have any queries regarding how your child is getting on at school – both academically and pastorally (wellbeing/behaviour).

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); Ms Luxford (upper school – years 5 and 6).

Mrs Tysoe is our pastoral lead this year. Her role is to support children, staff and parents with wellbeing and behaviour concerns that are occurring in school, after these have been discussed with class teachers.

Concerns around academic progress will come to Mrs Barnes our SENco but if you have any worries about family welfare 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.

A summary of this is attached in our "who to contact sheet" attached with this newsletter.

Communication with class teachers/school office

We are trying to support all our school community to be safe whilst at work. This does mean that contact with staff is much more limited than normal.

At this time all communications need to be via email/text/phone. Any visits to the school office are by appointment. Any visitors will have to adhere to our COVID visitor protocol. Please use the gateway app to make any payments required. Do help us to keep the communication channel open by ensuring all your contact details are up to date.

Home school contact books are not currently coming home but your child will have a reading book. This will not be changed as often. Reading mileage is not about how many books are read but by how often. In order to develop comprehension and be a fluent reader, children should read a familiar book and explore new words and punctuation, make predictions and know the text inside and out.

Admission to Secondary School September 2020

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. You will have the option to name up to SIX secondary schools in order of preference. All forms have to be completed and submitted by **Saturday 31st October 2020**.



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

Normal seasonal bugs versus COVID

It is very likely that any of the normal seasonal coughs, colds and sickness is going to be met with understandable anxiety in these current times.

Public Health England has asked us to share some information with you so that they are not overwhelmed and testing kits run out.

Pupils should only get tested if

- they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:
 - a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough
 - the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell,

or

- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If you are unsure of what to do ring 111 or complete the online NHS self-checker at <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

If a test is required, then the family need to isolate until the results are back. A negative test means a return to school. A positive test is self-isolation for 10 days.

If a test is not required, they can return to school but remember a cold may leave your child feeling unwell and so do let them rest at home if they are under the weather and would be unable to enjoy their day at school.

As is normal, a bout of sickness means a 24 hour period at home after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If they have had both then it is 48 hours.

Job vacancy – Midday Supervisor

As we are operating lunchtimes differently, we are in need of some additional midday supervisors. 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 the school office for an application form.

Closing date for applications Friday 2nd October 2020

School dinners – 2020 2021

As we have had to make changes to how we operate our lunchtime provision, whole school meals are only providing hot meals for

- Children in Years R, 1 and 2
- Children who are free school meals in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Everyone else will need a packed lunch every day.

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.

Breakfast Club

We are currently operating a priority, pre-booked and pre-paid system for breakfast club. Places can be booked using the booking form on the website - about us/breakfast club. Only children with a confirmed allocated space can attend and payment must be made in advance otherwise the place will be withdrawn.

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.

Online safety

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at our school but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep themselves safe and behave appropriately online. Please read the additional letter sent with this newsletter.

Remember there are lots of links and documents on our school website (safeguarding tab/online safety) to help you support your child to be safe on line and know what to do when things go wrong.

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 reaster at www.coolmilk.com

Dates for diary on the next page

DATES FOR DIARY

Term One 1st September 2020 – 23rd October 2020

Half term break 24th October – 1st November 2020

Term Two 2nd November – 18th December 2020

Christmas break 19th December – 3rd January 2021

Term Three 4th January – 12th February 2021

Half term break 13th February – 21st February 2021

Term Four 22nd February – 1st April 2021

Easter break 2nd April – 18th April 2021

Term Five 19th April – 28th May 2021

Half term break 29th May – 6th June 2021

Term Six 7th June – 21st July 2021

Staff Development Days when school is closed to children

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020

Monday 22nd February 2021

Friday 25th June 2021

Monday 28th June 2021

New academic Year 2020-2021

Term One September 2020 – all these dates are subject to change should government guidance change

Wednesday 9 th September	New Year R play and stay sessions – as per your invites
Thursday 10 th September	New Year R play and stay sessions – as per your invites
Friday 11 th September	New Year R play and stay sessions – as per your invites
Monday 14 th September	Year 2 Forest School starts
Monday 14 th September	Year R half day
Tuesday 15 th September	Year R half day
Wednesday 16 th September	Year R half day including lunch time
Thursday 17 th September	Year R half day including lunch time
Friday 18 th September	Year R in all day
Thursday 15 th October	Kent Test all day
Saturday 17 th October	Dover Schools Grammar Test
Tuesday 20 th October	Flu jab - All year groups
Tuesday 20 th October	Parent Consultations
Thursday 22 nd October	Parent Consultations
	<i>*parent consultations are subject to change dependent on government guidance</i>
Friday 23 rd October	Term One ends
	Swimming still to be confirmed
	Harvest festivals to be confirmed subject to guidance

Term Two

Monday 2 nd November	School closed to children – training day
Tuesday 3 rd November	Children start
Monday 9 th November	Year 4 Forest school starts
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need day
Friday 18 th December	Term Two ends

Christmas services to be confirmed subject to guidance

Term Three

Monday 4 th January	Children start
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