

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 – End Term One October 2020

Term one has seen a different but exciting and very busy start to the new academic year. All our new children have settled in well and the reception children are confidently exploring their reception area and making new friends. We are so proud of how the school community returned after such a long break. The pupils are eager to learn and show their teachers just what they are capable of!

Thanks to your support we have been able to adjust the morning drop off so that all children, except reception can arrive between 8.45am and 8.55am. The flow through the gates has been reasonably staggered which is great to see. From Monday 12th October reception children can start at 8.55am. We have been able to adjust pick up times to ten minute intervals but unfortunately we cannot find a way to dismiss 14 classes any quicker. Thank you all parents who are remembering to wear face coverings when on our school site. Please can you ensure that if you have a family member picking up, who does not get our newsletters that you inform them about wearing face coverings – this does include secondary age siblings. Please do consider what patterns/images are on your face coverings – they do need to be suitable for a primary school site (skulls, political messages etc. are a no – thanks). If you are collecting from Goodwin playground we do ask that you gather on the netball court closest to the sheds so leaving a large area to support safe dismissal of the children. Thank you for following these expectations, it is greatly appreciated. We will, of course, continue to monitor this and will communicate with you should we feel the need to make any alterations to our arrangements. We finish the term on Friday 23rd October at normal time and return to school on Tuesday 3rd November 2020. Drop off and pick up arrangements will remain as they currently are. Have a good half term break.

New Year R Admissions 2021

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 it is time to think about a school place for September 2021.

Apply to <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places> between **5th November 2020 and 15th January 2021**.

During term 2 we are able to offer after school tours only. Please contact the school office to book a slot.

Individual Photos

The photographer will be here on Friday 6th November 2020.

Due to our current operational procedures it will not be possible to offer family group photos this year.

All children will be photographed individually – there will be no sibling group photos this year.

Book Trust

Our new reception children will have received a book called *The Runaway Pea* by Kjartan Poskitt this term. These books have been provided; free of charge, by BookTrust, the largest UK children's reading charity. Reading together for just ten minutes a day improves children's imagination, language, emotional well-being and curiosity. Enjoy reading this book together at home with your child.

Staffing update

Mrs Emler is moving onto pastures new. We have now appointed a new secretary, Mrs Bateman, who will be joining us at the end of this term. Mrs Emler did a sterling job during lockdown, supporting the leadership team each day. We send her on to new ventures with our thanks and best wishes.

Parent Consultations

These were due to take place in the last week of term. Due to current restrictions we are unable to offer face to face meetings as we would normally do. Instead, you will receive a short report sharing how well your child has settled back at school and the key learning areas you can support your child with at home.

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**.



Who/What do you have faith in? Why do Christians have faith in Jesus?

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

Harvest Services

We are unable to go to Church this year to celebrate harvest festival. Canon Seth will be conducting a virtual service for our children in school.

We wish to continue to support our local foodbank at this time and details of how we will do this will be provided shortly in a separate letter.

#Hello Yellow – Mental Health Day

We would like to invite all children to wear an item of yellow on Friday 9th October to support the #HelloYellow campaign as part of World Mental Health Day. In exchange for wearing a yellow item, we would like to ask for a £1 donation to Young Minds, this can be done via our fund raising page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheDownsCEP> Please note that we will not be accepting cash donations at this time.

Parking considerations



There are zig zag lines outside all the school entrances reminding drivers to keep clear. There should be no stopping – not even for a moment - on these lines during the times indicated on the signs posted outside the school. The path is narrow with a raised muddy bank. A car door opening is liable to cause an accident in this vicinity. Please keep your own and other families' children safe by obeying the road signage at the start and end of day.

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.

Facebook - # nothing is impossible.

We have a face book page "The Downs CEP" so if you have not liked the page yet, please do follow 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.

Uniform

Winter uniform will be in place at the start of term 2 - Tuesday 3rd November.

Year 3 – 6 will need white shirts (not tee-shirts) and ties.

PE kit can still be worn to school on PE days – this can include tracksuit bottoms and a jumper.

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 lessons including swimming.

Please do also ensure that your child has a coat in school every day as we do aim to get outside every day.

Year 3 Bible Presentation

The congregations of the Parish of Walmer Churches, Walmer Baptist Church and Walmer Chapel raise money each year to provide Bibles for our Year 3 pupils.

These will be presented to the children in Year 3 during term 2 but unfortunately we will not be able to invite parents or parishioners from our local churches due to current COVID restrictions.

The Bible stays in school with the children until they move on to new schools.

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 4^h 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

Friday 9 th October	Wear something yellow to support Mental Health 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
Friday 23 rd October	Term One ends

Swimming still to be confirmed

Term Two

Monday 2 nd November	School closed to children – training day
Tuesday 3 rd November	Children start
Friday 6 th November	Individual photographs (Braiswick)
Monday 9 th November	Year 4 Forest school starts
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need day TBC
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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