

# 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 Two November 2020

Welcome back to what I am sure will be another not so normal, normal term, especially as we enter another national lockdown. It is going to be vital that all members of our school community follow the latest government guidance on the way to and from school and during time outside of school hours, whilst we are in this period of national lockdown.

On a more positive note our school community raised £203 when we took part in #HelloYellow day. Thank you to everyone who contributed – the sea of yellow that could be seen around school that day was very bright and cheerful.

Our school sign is looking a bit tired and so we have created a new school logo, new school sign and to help celebrate our wonderful community, our virtual school tour will soon be available in the website – we will let you know when we post it. We will also hopefully be able to post it on our face book page too.

Please keep safe and well during these continued difficult times and work with us to be able to remain open for ALL pupils.

### **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**.

Tours have been postponed until December but a virtual tour will soon be on our website.

### **Individual photo day – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

One class at a time will visit the school hall for individual photos only. There will be no family or sibling photos to avoid cross bubbling on the school site.

We will still be wearing PE kit to school on PE days. If a Friday is your child's PE day and you wish your child to be photographed in their uniform, they will need to wear their uniform to school and bring their PE kit to change in to after photos have been taken.

### **Remote Learning**

In September 2020, all our classes returned to full-time education following the Covid 19 closure in March. Although we hope that the majority of our children will now have an uninterrupted experience, there is the possibility that an individual child, a class bubble, or indeed the whole school, will need to self-isolate for a period of time.

Each year group will post weekly plans with links to resources and experiences that will support and consolidate your child's learning should they be required to work from home.

You can also access learning resources through your child's log in to purple mash (whole school), 10tick (Years 3-6) and Spag.com (years 5 and 6).

There are also numerous links on our school website to different learning resources

- pupil zone tab/home learning opportunities
- pupil zone tab/online safety
- curriculum, assessment and learning tab/help your child
- curriculum, assessment and learning tab/RE and collective worship/keep praying

Children should also continue with their reading, number work and learning their times tables.



**What do you have, that you can give to others,  
that allows you to show compassion?**

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

### Whole school meals – hot meals

Hot meals will now be available to **all** pupils who request one.

Please pay for your child's meals in advance, either weekly or termly. Please pay on a Monday for all meals you intend your child to take during that week.

You can pay whole school meals directly online: Visit their website <https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk> Click on school meals/scroll to the bottom and click on the "how to pay" link. Select The Downs CE Primary from the list and then complete the form and make payment.

This will support the school becoming cashless as per the letter before half term. Thank you.

### Staffing update

Mrs Bateman now joins our office team, with Mrs Osbourn, from this term.

Mr Gambrell joins our teaching team and will be providing learning support across middle school.

We welcome both of them to The Downs family and look forward to working with them as part of our team.

### 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.

### Uniform

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

This will mean ties and shirts for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The younger children can continue wearing polo shirts.

PE kit can still be worn to school on PE days – winter PE kit includes jogging bottoms and jumpers – ideally these should be plain, avoiding any reference to inappropriate slogans/games/films etc.

On PE days, it would be advisable to bring a change of shoes (in a carrier bag), as outdoor PE can be wet and muddy.

Uniform information is under the uniform link on our website.

### 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.

### Home/School contact books

Staff and parents have found it hard adjusting to the reduced means of communicating directly with class teachers.

We have reviewed the use of our home/school contact books and after half term these will be coming home for parents to use to share with us their child's reading. Messages can also be written in here for staff. However, staff will not be handling these books or writing in them but systems will be in place each morning for checking them.

**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](http://www.coolmilk.com)**

**Dates for diary on the next page**

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Term One 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Half term break 24<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

### Term Two 2<sup>nd</sup> November – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Christmas break 19<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

### Term Three 4<sup>h</sup> January – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Half term break 13<sup>th</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

### Term Four 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Easter break 2<sup>nd</sup> April – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Term Five 19<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Half term break 29<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Term Six 7<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

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

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## New academic Year 2020-2021

### Term Two

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School closed to children – training day
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Children start
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual photographs (Braiswick)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Forest school starts
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 dress up day (linked to their learning theme)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 having an onsite forest school day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need day TBC
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term two - children can be collected from 1.30pm.

*Christmas services to be confirmed subject to guidance but unlikely to be able to invite parents*

### Term Three

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Children start
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 Forest School starts
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term three – normal finish

### Term Four

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	School closed to children – training day
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children start
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 1 Forest School starts
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief TBC
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of term four - children can be collected from 1.30pm.

### Term Five

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Children start
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 Forest School starts
All of May	Year 2 statutory assessment month
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS all week
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term five – normal finish

### Term Six

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Children start
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Forest School
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Tests all week
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonic assessments all week