

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 Two December 2020

I know I am repeating myself by asking everyone not to be complacent, however, we are striving to keep the school safe, healthy and open, and we can only do this with your help and support. So thank you, to everybody, for being vigilant and for helping us to carry on as "normal" throughout this pandemic.

We are now entering a very anxious time, as we get closer to Christmas. Nobody wants to be poorly, or in isolation, over the Christmas period. Let's all work together to ensure that our community has every chance of finishing this term fit and well, enabling everybody to enjoy their Christmas break.

Please read the letter "**End of Term Two COVID update**" detailing how we can stay safe for these last few days of term two.

Our school email address has changed to secretary@downs.kent.sch.uk, the website and telephone number remain the same. Please do ensure we have your up to date details, especially email and telephone number as during these COVID times are communicating more electronically and so being able to send letters via email or texts will help keep you up to date and informed in a timely manner.

All the staff and children wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.
See you all on Monday 4th January 2021. Stay safe and well.

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 January. A virtual tour and the answers to frequently asked questions are available on our website. Appointments for tours January can be made by phoning the school office 01304 372486.

CHRISTMAS - Reminders of our last week of events

Christmas dinner day – 16 12 20

The Christmas week menu has been sent out. Orders for this week need to be completed by 4th December so that whole school meals can put their food order in. All meals booked, need to be paid for by this date too.

Christmas jumper day – 16 12 20

On Christmas dinner day (16/12/20) the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper to school. If they do not have a Christmas jumper they are welcome to wear a Christmas accessory such as Christmas hats, scarf, socks, tie etc. Apart from the jumper/accessories the children should still be wearing the rest of their school uniform.

Pantomime and Snack Boxes - PTA

On Monday 14th December the children across our school will be watching a streamed version of Sleeping Beauty that has been made bespoke to our school by Bigfoot Arts. The PTA are providing snack packs at a cost of £1.50 each. The pack will contain a bag of sweet popcorn, a small bag of Haribo and a carton of juice as well as a Christmas gift! If you would like your child to have a snack pack, please submit your order and pay the £1.50 on the school gateway app. This will go live on the app on Monday 30th November and will close on Monday 7th December. We cannot take any orders after this period.

Last day of term – 18th December – see collection times on the diary page (*starting with Reception at 1.15pm*)



As our thoughts turn to Christmas time with our families, **what makes some meals special?**

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

Compassion in action

Our Year 6 Charity Ambassadors have decided to support two connected charities, Digby's Smile and The Sandcastle Trust. Digby's Smile is a local charity supporting a local little boy with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy as well as The Sandcastle Trust that supports parents and children who have a rare genetic condition.

We are asking all children to be helpful Elves for a week and in return to ask their adults to donate money to these charities.

Compassion in action

Christmas cards for a Walmer Care Centre

Year 5 and 6 have created Christmas cards for the residents of Walmer Care Centre.

Each resident will receive a card with a festive message from every child in upper school.

Hopefully, this will bring a smile to residents who are unable to see loved ones at this time.

Whole School Meals – price change from January

Letter from whole school meals:

Dear parents and carers

As you know, we have managed to keep the price of a school meal static for the past 6 years, whilst the price of food produce has been steadily rising.

*Unfortunately, this price is no longer possible to sustain, and therefore we will have to increase our price from 1st January 2021. The meal price will be **£2.35 per meal**.*

I am sure you will agree that this is still great value for money for a healthy, 2 course lunch and we thank you for your continued support.

You can pay for school dinners direct to whole school meals - Visit their website

<https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk>

Midday Supervisor

As we are operating lunchtime very differently at the moment, we are looking for new additional staff members to support our children.

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 Mrs Tysoe via the school office to discuss the role further.

Cashless school

Due to the current situation we are reducing cash handling in school. Parents and carers are asked to use the School Gateway App to make payments where possible unless alternative arrangements have been made with the office. If you need any help with the School Gateway App, please contact the school office to check we have the correct log in details for you as your email address and mobile number must match what we have on our system. You can pay for school dinners direct to whole school meals - Visit their website <https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk>

SEVERE WEATHER – hopefully not!!

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

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 Two

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

Friday 18th December

Last day of term two – children can be collected as follows:

Reception 1.15pm

Years 5 and 6 1.20pm

Years 3 and 4 1.30pm

Years 1 and 2 1.40pm

Using the same gates as normal end of day

Term Three

Monday 4th January

Children start

Monday 11th January

Year 5 Forest School starts

Friday 12th February

Last day of term three – normal finish

Term Four

Monday 22nd February

School closed to children – training day

Tuesday 23rd February

Children start

Monday 1st March

Year 1 Forest School starts

Thursday 4th March

World Book Day

Friday 12th March

Comic Relief TBC

Thursday 1st April

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

Term Five

Monday 19th April

Children start

Monday 19th April

Year 3 Forest School starts

All of May

Year 2 statutory assessment month

Monday 3rd May

Bank Holiday

Monday 10th May

Year 6 SATS all week

Friday 28th May

Last day of term five – normal finish

Term Six

Monday 7th June

Children start

Monday 7th June

Year 6 Forest School

Monday 7th June

Year 4 Multiplication Tests all week

Monday 7th June

Year 1 Phonic assessments all week