

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 – January 2021

Welcome to 2021 and term three

So much has changed in just a few days - what I started writing on Monday for my newsletter, is very different to what I am writing now.....Whilst it might feel as if 2021 has made a bleak start, there is hope on the horizon with the roll out of mass testing and vaccinations. We will also be heading into lighter and warmer days and everything always seems more hopeful then.

We recognize that with siblings, and other family members at home, all trying to access their work, the school day at home may not mirror the school day in school. This is perfectly fine as families need to make this time work for them. Just be aware, that any work uploaded in the evening, will only be looked at by staff during the school day.

During this period of lockdown, staff will be in contact, by phone, with the families of children not attending school on a fortnightly basis as well as checking pupils access to their learning via purple mash. Please bear in mind that staff are still teaching in school.

Due to moving to a different platform, we are not able to offer live lessons yet but there are video lessons, available to parents who want them, created by agencies such as the DFE funded Oak National Academy. The BBC, from Monday will also be offering a three-hour block of primary school programming from 9am.

Please keep safe and well, and in touch with school, throughout this lockdown period.

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**.

A virtual tour and the answers to frequently asked questions are available on our website.

Symptom-free COVID 19 testing for key workers and their families

Kent County Council has launched a symptom-free testing scheme for key workers and their families across the County from 4 January 2021.

The test uses a lateral flow device and can detect in 30 minutes whether an individual has the COVID-19 virus.

Any key worker and members of their family can book a test.

To book a test, please follow this link: <https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

What to do if your child has a positive coronavirus test result and is attending school every day/some days

Inform the school straightaway – you may get test results out of school hours, if this is the case please phone **07756807060**. Please note this number is only for reporting a positive test result out of school hours (evenings/weekends/holidays). At all other times continue to phone the school office.

Free school meals during lockdown

Currently the information schools have with regards the provision of meals to those children not attending school, who are eligible for free school meals, is that *"During the national lockdown, schools should continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school"*

Whole school meals are able to provide weekly isolation boxes, to those FSM children not attending school, when ordered by midday on Friday's.

Information was sent out Thursday 7th January – if you have not received this and believe you are eligible contact the school office.

Whole School Meals – price change from January

Hot paid meals available to children attending school - the meal price will be **£2.35 per meal**. You can pay for school dinners direct to whole school meals - Visit their website <https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk>



"Can you tell if a person is good or bad by the way they look?"

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

**To all parents at
The Downs and Northbourne CEP schools**

As Chair of Governors I am writing to you about developments with the local governing body.

Since 2011 there has been one governing body to cover both schools. This was a result of the formation of the federation to provide stability to Northbourne at that time. Since 2011 much has changed, both schools have grown and developed in order to meet the needs of their own communities of staff, pupils, families and carers. When DEALT was formed, the Federation ceased to exist but the two schools maintained a shared governing body.

Over the past year the governors have reflected on how this is working for both schools and, after discussion within the governing body, with the CEO of DEALT and the DEALT Trustees, we have decided that both schools will be best served by having their own governing body.

The move to one governing body for each school fits well with the OFSTED framework that requires governors to have a deep understanding of their school's unique curriculum intent. As governors we passionately believe that both schools deserve governing bodies that are dedicated to one school only, who have the in-depth knowledge of that school rather than being spread across two.

Our intention is to move to two governing bodies around term 4, we will shortly be advertising for new governors and would encourage you to consider being a governor yourself and to highlight these opportunities to anyone you know who may be suitable.

We will keep you informed as our plans develop, please feel free to contact me via the school office if you have any questions.

With best wishes
Dr Alison Eyden
Chair of Governors

Remote learning during lockdown

Each year group will post weekly plans with links to resources and experiences that will mirror the learning taking place in school ([visit the website – curriculum tab/remote learning/year group](#))

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.

DFE laptops

Despite what the press may suggest, the government has not provided a laptop for every child not attending school during lockdown. As a school we have received laptops for 12% of our school population.

Over the next couple of days, we will be

- Getting the laptops ready
- Reviewing DFE guidance
- Reviewing the parent survey sent out Monday (completed by 83% of our families – thank you)
- Developing a priority criterion
- Allocating laptops and contacting parents

These laptops are loaned to families, by the school, and must be returned at the schools' request. If your child is allocated one and they do not access the remote learning, you will be asked to return it so another family can benefit.

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 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 Three – NOW IN LOCKDOWN

Monday 4 th January	Children start
Monday 11 th January	Year 5 Forest School starts - cancelled
Friday 12 th February	Last day of term three – normal finish

Term Four – subject to change as we await information about the lifting of lockdown

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

Term Five

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

Term Six

Monday 7 th June	Children start
Monday 7 th June	Year 6 Forest School
Monday 7 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tests all week - cancelled
Monday 7 th June	Year 1 Phonic assessments all week - cancelled