

# 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 – March 2021

Welcome back to Term Four – with some promising light at the end of the tunnel

Hopefully, you all had the opportunity to enjoy some time in the snow. With our COVID school closure, it was a shame to have a field full of snow and no children to play on it as that is always such a joy to behold.

On Monday evening, the Prime Minister announced that all pupils will be expected to return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Since that announcement the government have also published their operational guidance for schools.

We are spending this week reviewing this guidance, revisiting all our risk assessments and organizational arrangements.

A letter will come out to you early next week outlining the plans for the return of all pupils to school.

We are very much looking forward to seeing all of our children. The first few days back will focus on supporting the children in returning to the school routine, socialization time, wellbeing and building up their stamina for the academic side of school.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

### Symptom-free COVID 19 testing

Kent County Council has launched a symptom-free testing scheme for 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.

Anyone living in Kent can book a test.

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

### Positive COVID cases

As you will be aware we had a number of positive COVID-19 cases that required the school to close prior to the half term break. There were 14 cases in total; many did not exhibit the classic three symptom's associated with COVID-19 and within our community, although most were moderately unwell, we did have one hospitalisation and some now have long COVID.

It just serves as a reminder that the virus is still prevalent, even though rates are falling, and that we mustn't become complacent. The community is anxious about the continuing situation and as such it is important that we continue to follow national guidance, especially with all pupils returning.

Many of our cases had no symptoms and only came to light through accessing the KCC symptom free testing. Please do make use of this service to help reduce transmission. Also book a COVID test as soon as any symptoms present themselves.

Remember to follow all the national guidance to keep everyone safe and well.

### What to do if your child has a positive coronavirus test result and is attending school

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.



### "Can you complete the 40 Acts of Kindness Challenge for Lent?"

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

## Remote learning during lockdown

Although we will have all pupils returning to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, remote learning plans can still be accessed through our website

The starting point for learning at home each week is the school website– curriculum tab/remote learning/year group.

Here you will find the weekly plan that will provide structure for your week of learning. The plan provides links to recorded lessons provided by a range of reputable providers such as National Oak Academy, BBC programmes and White Rose.

Activities to be completed through your child's log in to purple mash (whole school), 10tick (Years 3-6) and Spag.com (years 5 and 6) will also be indicated on this plan. Completed work can be uploaded via purple mash for teachers to review and give feedback.

### Microsoft TEAMS

Due to our COVID school closure, delays in setting up pupil accounts and checking settings on Microsoft TEAMS we did not manage to get information out to our families before half term, as hoped.

Although all pupils are due back in school from the 8<sup>th</sup> we still hope to share information about Microsoft TEAMS with you before then.

Children that are currently in school are trialling a few assignments so we can check settings etc.

## Notable Achievements

**We are still celebrating our pupils' achievements in after school activities so please do share to get a mention here:**

Back in December we shared that

*Sky (Y6) – has written a book “Stars in the Night Sky”  
Natalie (Y6) - has illustrated the book for Sky*

I can now confirm that the book will be published in March

This is amazing news. Congratulations. We look forward to reading a copy.

## Governors

The Chair of Governors wrote to you in our January newsletter about the Federation governing body dissolving to form two local governing bodies, one for each school.

It is hoped that after the March Federation Governing Body Meeting that we will next meet again in our new local governing body. This would be a meeting in term 5, May 2021.

We will need to recruit a number of governors and are particularly keen to hear from any parent who wishes to be considered, especially if they have personnel, finance or marketing skills.

If you have any questions about the role or would like to be considered for a role on The Downs governing body, please send a message in to the school office with any relevant background information.

## 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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) or [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk)
- the school website [www.downs.kent.sch.uk](http://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](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 Four – subject to change as we await information about the lifting of lockdown**

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 - cancelled

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

All children will be required to attend school – letter outlining arrangements WB 01 03 21

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 TBC

All of May

Year 2 statutory assessment month - cancelled

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Bank Holiday

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Year 6 SATS all week - cancelled

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 TBC

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Year 4 Multiplication Tests all week - cancelled

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Year 1 Phonic assessments all week - cancelled