



# THE DOWNS CEP SCHOOL

*"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible." (Matthew: 17 v20)*

## Newsletter – Term Five April 2021

Welcome back to the start of our summer term. Hopefully, the weather will continue its journey towards many warm, sunny and dry days – the children are certainly happy to be on the field. Although we are heading into nicer weather and in summer uniform it is important children still have in school a coat, lightweight jacket or waterproof to give that extra layer of protection when we wish to still be outside despite inclement weather – the field can be particularly chilly at times and light showers are still a possibility.

The road map out of lockdown continues and the stay at home message is relaxed to allow two households, or up to 6 people, to meet outside. However, the government’s message is still one of caution to avoid a rise in COVID cases. Please do follow the guidance on social distancing, hygiene and not mixing households indoors – this includes not holding indoor birthday parties.

**Reminders for drop off and pick up:** We wish for everyone to be safe and for community transmission to remain low. As such we ask that you remain extra vigilant and ensure that

- You are social distancing between other parents and staff, respecting the 2m rule
- You are wearing a face covering on our school site
- Children arrive and leave at their allocated time
- All communication with school is via text, email, phone or communicated to staff on gate duty – the office is closed to all visitors except in an emergency
- The number of adults dropping off/collecting children is limited to one person

### Summer Uniform

- Plain white polo neck shirts (no ties)
- Black/grey shorts/skirts
- Blue check summer dresses
- Sun hat/baseball cap (*optional*)
- Black school shoes or substantial sandals (no ‘jelly’ shoes’)

*Trainers are not allowed (except on PE days) unless for genuine medical reasons where parents can produce evidence. Hair should be neat and tidy and long hair should be tied back (boys and girls) for health and safety reasons and to prevent the spread of head lice. Hair accessories should be small and discrete in blue, grey or black. No fancy hair accessories.*

**Children still needs coats in school everyday**

### Parent Consultations

Our parent consultation is taking place during the first two weeks of term 5. These are taking place via a phone call. Appointments were offered via our website last term but if you missed the deadline, please contact the school office to see what the remaining availability is.

### September 2021 – New Reception Starters

If your child is due to start school this September and you registered your school choices, your school offer would have been received on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Please follow the instructions sent to you for accepting the place you have been offered. If you have not received a school place, please contact the school office and we can advise you on what to do next.

### What to do if your child has a positive coronavirus test result

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 (weekends & holidays 10am-4pm; evenings 6pm-8pm). At all other times continue to phone the school office.

### Home Learning – Term Five

The termly home learning activities are resuming and will be available from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April via your child’s TEAMS account. The activities will also be available to access from the school website.



### “Are you ever in COMPLETE silence?”

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

### Term Four Attendance Review

We would like to thank all parents for ensuring that their children are attending school and getting to school on time.

Our attendance from the beginning of September 2020 until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 is currently **96%**.

RS	97.5%	2G	95.9%	4B	93.5%	6C	95.7%
RST	96.8%	2GA	93.5%	4T	96.0%	6O	95.6%
1P	97.4%	3M	97.3%	5AU	97.7%	<b>Whole school</b>	<b>96%</b>
1H	96.2%	3E	97.2%	5W	94.6%		

*Please remember to phone in and inform us of your child's absence. It is helpful if you can give their full name and class as well as a reason for absence.*

### Dogs

A number of dogs are being tied up to our internal fencing/external fencing and then left unattended.

Large numbers of children leave our site and may not have an adult with them. They can be tempted to approach these dogs but there is no owner there to ensure that it is safe for them to do so.

We understand that you consider your dog to be safe but there is no guarantee that they won't act out of character when faced with a large group of children approaching.

Someone needs to be with your dog whilst dropping off or collecting your child/ren and if this is not possible I would advise not bringing them up to school.

We do not permit dogs (of any size) on school grounds and therefore you do need to consider the practicalities of the school run. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Conduct of pupils to and from school

We encourage children who travel to and from school independently to observe road safety (especially when bikes and scooters are being used), act courteously towards other pedestrians, and to act responsibly at all times.

In doing this they represent their families and the school community in a positive light. We appreciate parents supporting us with this message.

### 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.

### Governors

As all of you know, The Downs has worked alongside Northbourne CEP for many years now, in a successful Federation. The two schools have continued to work closely following our move to Academy status in 2019 and the formation of DEALT. From this term, both schools will have their own Governing bodies and will cease to run under the Federation banner. Other than an update to our letterhead, you will not notice any changes. We will continue to work closely with Northbourne, as well as all of our other partner schools within DEALT. We look forward to continuing our great working relationship with Northbourne, and DEALT, as we move ahead with our own Governing body.

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.

**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**

## Academic Year 2020-2021

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

### **Term Five**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Children start

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Year 3 Forest School starts

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 Statutory Multiplication Tests all week - cancelled

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Year 1 Statutory Phonic assessments all week – cancelled

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Staff training day – school closed

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Staff training day – school closed