

THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

Newsletter - September 2018

Welcome back to another exciting year. I hope you all had a wonderful break.

I am excited to be stepping into Mrs K's role as we begin a new academic year and look forward to meeting all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families.

The children were caught a little off guard yesterday with the rain at home time – please ensure they have a jacket/rain coat in school at all times. We do like to get outside even when the weather is damp. Please do remember to name all of your child's belongings. Children should also have a bottle in school – this is for water only. Please do remember to keep us up to date with any change to contact details – phone numbers, addresses and email. This will ensure we keep you up to date with events in school and we can contact you if your child falls ill, has an accident or the school is closed.

Our learning theme this term is *“Our Wonderful World”*

Reception

As we welcome our new children to The Downs CEP we will be using our theme to learn about ourselves and our role within this wonderful world. We will also explore the exciting mini beast environment. As part of our RE learning we ask “Why is the word God so important to Christians?”

Year Two

The children have chosen to focus on the country Kenya and the book ‘Handa’s Surprise!’ This topic also links to our Science topic about animals where we will be looking at different African animals. We will be consolidating our use of basic punctuation and our understanding of place value. Our theme in RE is Creation and the big question to explore is ‘Who made the World?’

Year Four

We are going to be focusing on the C.S. Lewis classic book ‘The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew’. We are going to be using our imaginations to write our own stories inspired by C.S. Lewis. Our focus in maths will be Place Value and Addition and Subtraction this will have a large focus on solving word problems. In RE we will explore our views on what do Christians learn from the creation story?

. Year Six

This term will be based around the areas of interest the children identified such as physical geography (extreme weather, different cultures, etc.) The topic will be explored through research using a variety of sources including ICT. We will be studying the book ‘Boom! By Mark Haddon and in Maths the children will develop strategies for ensuring that they use the most effective method to solve a problem.

Year One

We will be looking at our wonderful world outside the classroom door along with imaginative worlds that can be found in picture books. In maths we will be continuing to develop our number skills, focussing on our understanding of place value, addition and subtraction. In R.E. this term we are exploring God, understanding what Christians believe God is like and how Christians show their belief in God.

Year Three

We will be learning all about the Ancient Egyptians! We will be researching their traditions and learning about their customs. We will be reading ‘The Time Travelers Cat’ and using this as inspiration for our own creative writing! We will be exploring plants in science and revising our 2x, 5x and 10x tables in maths.

Year Five

We will be focusing on Geography skills, learning the location of countries within continents and finding out about different natural disasters. Linked to this will be our whole class text we will be Michael Morpurgo’s book ‘Running Wild.’ In RE we will be learning about God and considering the question: ‘What does it mean if God is loving and holy?’

Classroom doors for ALL classes will open at 8.45am with registration at 8.55am. The end of the school day is 3.10pm for all classes.

To support site safety gates will not open before 8.40am and will close at 9.00am; they will open again at 3.00pm and close at 3.20pm. Children in upper school who walk to school by themselves should not arrive before 8.40am. Children in all other year groups should be supervised by their parent/carer until classroom doors open at 8.45am.



Who made the World?

Discuss together as a family....share your best examples with your class teacher

For information

Class teachers are your first port of call if you have any queries regarding how your child is getting on at school.

Team leaders are there to support class teachers and families when further discussions are perhaps needed. Our team leaders are: Mrs Langley (Lower school – Years R and 1); Ms Luxford (Deputy Head of School/middle school team leader – Years 2, 3 and 4); Mrs Tysoe (upper school – years 5 and 6).

Concerns around academic progress will come to Mrs Mitchell our SENco but if you have any worries about family matters, Mr Turner, our Family Liaison Officer (FLO), will be more than happy to meet with you.

Miss Leighton (Head of School) and Ms Luxford (Deputy Head of school) are more than happy to follow up any further enquiries parents may have.

Notable Achievements

We like to celebrate children's achievements outside of school through our whole school collective worship and newsletters. If your child receives an award or recognition for activities they complete outside of school, do encourage them to share this with us in collective worship on a Monday or Friday.

Home/School contact book

If the class teacher needs to know something about your child such as change in after school pick up arrangements, medicine in office, bit of TLC, poor night's sleep, not able to do PE etc. please use the home/school contact book. Messages via the office should be as a result of a change during the day that couldn't be communicated in advance.

Uniform

We shall remain in summer uniform this term; therefore Years 3-6 will not require ties until we notify you of the change.

Uniform information is under the uniform link on our website. In particular note that hair accessories should be small and discrete in blue, grey or black. Trainers should not be worn unless for medical reasons.

Earrings have to be removed for all PE and swimming lessons.

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

Clubs – Term One

Information about clubs for term one will be coming home shortly. **Clubs will start week beginning 17th September** and run for 4 weeks. Clubs for reception will start in term two.

Payment and consent forms - Please do ensure that if your child is offered a club that the payment and consent form are returned before the first night.

Admission to Secondary School September 2018

All Kent parents of current year 6 children will be required to complete the authority's Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. You will be required to name up to FOUR secondary schools in order of preference. All forms have to be completed and submitted by **Tuesday 31st October 2018**. More information can be found on the letter we sent you in May – this is also on the website with Year 6 newsletters.

School dinners - 2018-2019 - Year 3

Children moving from year 2 to year 3 in September will now be required to pay for school dinners unless you have registered for free school meals. A school dinner costs £2.30 each day. It is quick and easy to check if you are eligible for free school meals. Visit <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

School Dinners Reception, Years 1 and 2

All children in reception, year one and year two have the chance to have a hot meal every school day paid for by the government. What a great opportunity for your child to have a substantial meal in the middle of the day, every day, at no cost to you.

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.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club operates daily from 8.00 am until the start of the school day. Children should **not** arrive before 8.00 am.

The cost of Breakfast Club is £2.00 per day. Please pay on the day or in advance, either weekly or termly. For more information contact the school office.

Children should not bring their own food to breakfast club

Dates for diary on the next page

DATES FOR DIARY

Dates for the new academic year: 2018 - 2019

Term One 3rd September 2018 – 18th October 2018

Half term break 19th October – 28th October 2018

Term Two 29th October – 19th December 2018

Christmas break 20th December – 2nd January 2019

Term Three 3rd January – 14th February 2019

Half term break 15th February – 24th February 2019

Term Four 25th February – 5th April 2019

Easter break 6th April – 22nd April 2019

Term Five 23rd April – 24th May 2019

Half term break 25th May – 2nd June 2019

Term Six 3rd June – 23rd July 2019

Staff Development Days when school is closed to children

Friday 19th October 2018
Monday 26th November 2018
Friday 15th February 2019
Friday 21st June 2019
Monday 24th June 2019

Term One 2018

Monday 3 rd September	First day back for children
Tuesday 4 th September	Meet and Greet for Year 6 parents – 2.30pm Hall Year R home visits
Wednesday 5 th September	Meet and Greet for Year 5 parents – 2.30pm Hall Year R home visits
Thursday 6 th September	Year 6 Kent Test for those that have registered Year R Home visits
Friday 7 th September	Meet and Greet for Year 2 parents – 2.30pm Hall Year R play and stay sessions
Saturday 8 th September	Dover Grammar Schools Test (boys and girls)
Monday 10 th September	Year 4 Forest School starts
Monday 10 th September	Meet and Greet Year 3 parents – 2.30pm Hall Year R play and stay sessions
Tuesday 11 th September	Meet and Greet Year 4 parents – 2.30pm hall Year R 8.55am-11.45am
Wednesday 12 th September	Meet and Greet for Year 1 parents – 2.30pm Hall Year R 8.55am-11.45am
Thursday 13 th September	Year R in all day
Friday 14 th September	Year 3 swimming starts
Monday 17 th September	Clubs start (4 weeks)
Monday 24 th September	Year 6 Arethusa Residential
Thursday 27 th September	Meet and Greet Year R – 2.30pm Hall
Tues 16 th /Thurs 18 th October	Parent Consultations
Friday 19 th October	Training day – school closed to children

Term Two

Monday 29 th October	Children return to school Year 2 Forest school starts
Wednesday 31 st October	Individual school photos
Friday 2 nd November	Year 3 swimming starts
Monday 5 th November	Clubs start (4 weeks)
Monday 26 th November	Training day – school closed to children
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 19 th December	Last day of term two – children can be collected from 1.30pm

Term Three

Thursday 3 rd January	Children return to school
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