

THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

Newsletter - December 2018

Our week of Remembrance activities, with each team leading a collective worship dedicated to learning more about what life was like during the war and the celebrations at the end of world war one, was a lovely collaborative focus in thinking about others. Our poppy display, year 4 reading of "In Flanders Field" and our two minute silence was a fitting end to these commemorations. Now we invite you to join us in our many seasonal activities as we enter the Christian season of Advent. See below for more details of how and when.

On Christmas dinner day (18/12/18) 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 school uniform.

Children in Need

Our non-uniform and second hand book sale raised **£529.18** for this worthwhile cause.

Thank you for all your donations, your wonderful Pudsey Bear accessories and spotty attire.

PTA and Open Afternoon / Non uniform

In the absence of an active PTA, a group of willing volunteers have come together to help organise a Christmas Fair – many thanks to them.

On Friday 7th December the children are being asked to bring in donations for the tombola of chocolate and/or bottles (drink, toiletries, lotions, perfume etc.) and as a thankyou this will be a non-uniform day.

Friday 14th December is our Open Afternoon and Christmas Fair. Gates will be open at **2pm** for you to visit your child's classroom so they can share their learning with you. After which you are then free to visit the fair in the hall.

In term 3 we will be organising a meeting to establish a new PTA group to assist with other fundraising activities throughout the rest of the year.

Our children are only at school for a relatively short time. PTA events such as summer and Christmas fairs, school disco's, movie nights etc. will be remembered fondly by our children for a lifetime.

The equipment and resources the PTA help fund, make learning even more engaging. Help us continue to create lasting memories for our children by becoming a member of the school PTA.

Church Services and retiring collections

Monday 10th December 2pm – Middle School (Y2,3,4) at St Mary's Church – retiring collection for Porchlight

Wednesday 12th December 2pm – Upper School (Y5,6) Christingle at St Mary's Church – retiring collection The Children Society

Thursday 13th December 2pm – Lower School (YR,1) at Walmer Baptist Church – retiring collection for Porchlight

Monday 17th December time TBC – Year 1 Nativity in the School Hall

Admission arrangements

Kent County Council is consulting on proposed changes to admissions arrangements for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for intake in September 2019. The proposal is to provide priority to children adopted from outside of England. The consultation of the proposed changes will run until **10 December 2018**. The consultation questionnaire can be found at https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/School_Admission_Arrangements/consultationHome

New Year R Admissions 2019

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 it is time to think about a school place for September 2019. Apply to <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places> between **6th November 2018 and 15th January 2019**.

Phone the school office to make an appointment for a viewing



Why do Christian's perform nativity plays at Christmas?

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

Notable Achievements

A number of children have shared with the whole school their achievements in after school activities

Hannah Y4 – caring for animals certificate

Amelia Y2 – Dance Trophy

Arwen Y5 – three swimming gala medals

Adele Y6, Maisie Y4, Holly Y1, Ellie Y2 and Libby Y5 –

Acrobatic British Theatre dance trophies

Alice Y5 and Gabrielle Y5 – Kent Gymnastic Awards

Ellice Y2 (and her family) – courageous family award for their fundraising and Ellice helped to switch on Deal

Christmas Lights

Representing the school:

Brodie, Tom, Joshua, Oliver, Dennis, Harrison S, Archie, Harrison F, Zack and Jakob - Y5/6 Kent School Games football tournament – made it to the quarter finals.

Maisie Y4 - Kent Junior Cross Country Event

Amazing achievement – well done to you all.

Supervision on school site / Conduct

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.

We respectfully ask you to refrain from swearing or discussing “adult topics” at drop off and pick up times and whilst on school premises.

Attendance

It is our expectation that our children have at least 96% attendance. This is the attendance set by OFSTED and the Local Authority.

Medical - All appointments should be made for out of school hours or during school holidays unless issued by a hospital. Where this is not possible appointments should be made at the beginning or end of the school day. Children should either be returned to school after their appointment or picked up from school. In order to authorise this absence you may be required to show your appointment card/letter/text to the office.

Whole School Meals – School Dinners

If you receive a letter from whole school meals regarding any outstanding monies for school dinners please contact them to discuss this. This is a matter between you and the provider, whole school meals, and not the school. Any frustrations you may have should not be directed at our office staff.

SEVERE WEATHER

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

Midday Supervisor

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 Ms Luxford via the school office to discuss the role further.

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 Three

Information will hopefully be available before the end of term.

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. Please do remember to collect from clubs on time – 4pm for clubs run by school staff and 4.15pm for clubs run by outside providers such as PACE.

Clubs do need to have 8 or more children to run. This term we do have good numbers but that is not always the case. Currently, we are operating clubs at a loss – this means that the school is subsidising the clubs from our main budget. This cannot continue and we may have to review our provision and our costings.

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 Two

Monday 3rd December

Panto performance for Lower School children

Friday 7th December

Non Uniform day – tombola donations for Christmas Fair

Monday 10th December

Middle School Christmas Service at St Mary's 2pm

Tuesday 11th December

Years 4-6 to Goodwin for Panto

Wednesday 12th December

Years 2-3 to Goodwin for Panto

Wednesday 12th December

Upper School Christmas Service at St Mary's 2pm

Thursday 13th December

Astrodome visit for Year 3 and Year 5

Thursday 13th December

Lower School Christmas Service at Walmer Baptist Church 2pm

Friday 14th December

Open Afternoon from 2pm and Christmas Fair

Monday 17th December

Year 1 Nativity to parents school hall - time TBC

Monday 17th December

Community Church, Victoria Road, Deal at 6pm for Choir Christmas Performance

Tuesday 18th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 19th December

Last day of term two – children can be collected from 1.30pm

Term Three

Thursday 3rd January

Children return to school

Monday 7th January

Year 5 Forest School starts

Friday 11th November

Year 3 swimming starts

Tuesday 5th February

On Line Safety Day TBC

Thursday 14th February

Last day of term three for children – normal finish time

Friday 15th February

Training day – school closed to children

Term Four

Monday 25th February

Children return to school

Monday 25th February

Year 1 Forest School starts

Friday 1st March

Year 3 swimming starts

4th/5th/6th/7th March

Book Fair

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day

Friday 5th April

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

Term Five

Tuesday 23rd April

Children return to school = SUMMER UNIFORM

Tuesday 23rd April

Year 3 Forest School starts