

# THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

## Newsletter - End of Term Two December 2018

What a busy term – we have had parents building homes for the three little pigs, testing vehicles, learning about reading, creating space dioramas, sharing learning and being immersed in craft. Then we have had three lovely and very different Christmas services at our linked churches. As I write this, we are preparing for open afternoon and the Christmas fair. In the last few days we still have the delights of the Year 1 nativity, Christmas jumpers/accessories and dinner day as well as our final collective worship of this term and year.

Thank you for all your continued support.

All the staff and children wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

See you all on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019. Have a great festive break.

### Academy proposal update

As we get ready to go into the Christmas break we thought it would be timely to update you on where the MAT proposal has got to.

At the end of last term/beginning of this term the governing body for all 7 schools were asked to consider where they were at in exploring the MAT proposal and whether they wished to continue with the process. They have all agreed to continue with gathering information.

As a result each school has received its £25,000 conversion grant that is to be used towards the process but the final decision has yet to be made. What the money allows the schools to do is explore the financial viability of a MAT (by employing someone to do this work) and also to pay the fees to KCC, Diocese and lawyers who look at all the land/legal issues.

Information gathered from this next stage is then shared with the governing body before a final decision, on whether to go ahead with conversion, is made.

An updated scheme of delegation (rules to govern the trust) and timeline are published on our website.

As this is a proposal for a 'local' Deal Trust, where possible we feel it is important to use the skills set of the local community. We are also now at the stage where we need to investigate basic marketing and web design for Dealt, which will complement the schools existing provision.

If any parents have any links or expertise in these areas, please contact the school office

### Church Services and retiring collections

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas services both at St Marys and Walmer Baptist Church.

The upper school retiring collection for The Children's Society raised **£121.45**.

Lower school and middle school retiring collections for Porchlight raised **£164.57**.

Thank you for your kind donations for these two very worthwhile charities that support vulnerable children and their families, especially important at this time of year

### Open Afternoon and Christmas Fair

A small band of very willing volunteers helped to set up the hall for our Christmas Fair. It was well visited and although not all the money has been counted yet, over **£600** was raised towards the PTA funds.

Thank you for coming in to see your children's work and for visiting the fair in the hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped to set up and clear away.

### 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



*In what ways will you celebrate the true meaning of 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*

Mia Y2 – swimming award

Leila Y4 and Jessica Y2 – winners of a “no smoking near school gates sign” design competition awarded by Dover District Council

Ayleshia Y4 – swimming award

Lucia Y2 and Maisie Y2 - ballet exam pass

Hannah Y5 and Molly Y5 – silver music award

8 children (two teams) from Year 5 and 6 took part in the Manwoods’ Maths Challenge with one team coming third (Harrison, Freddie, Edward, Alexandra) out of about 26 teams.

*Amazing achievement – well done to you all.*

### Staffing news

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Hewitt in Y3, who is going to be doing more music teaching, and Mrs Dent in Year 4 who is retiring.

We thank them both for their support with our children’s learning and wish them all the very best in the future.

Mr Exton and his partner are expecting their first baby in the New Year.

Mrs Glanville and her husband are expecting their second child at the end of February.

We look forward to hearing about the births, names, weights etc.

### Pastor Seyan

Pastor Seyan has spent a few days in hospital but is now recovering at home.

All the staff and pupils have him in their prayers and send him their very best wishes for a speedy recovery. We hope he has a very Merry Christmas.

### Parking

Parking across our neighbour’s driveways can cause upset when they are unable to leave their homes at drop off and pick up times. Please be considerate to our neighbours when you come to collect on Wednesday.

### 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.

### 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](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)**

### Clubs – Term Three

R, 1, 2 – Football with PACE, Lego, Colouring, Film

Y3, 4, 5 and 6 – Football PACE, Lego, Late night library, papercraft, cookery (Y6), film, Homework

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Half term break 19<sup>th</sup> October – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

#### Term Two 29<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Christmas break 20<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

#### Term Three 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Half term break 15<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

#### Term Four 25<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Easter break 6<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

#### Term Five 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Half term break 25<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

#### Term Six 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

#### Staff Development Days when school is closed to children

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

#### Term Two

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Year 1 Nativity to parents school hall – 2.15pm

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December

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

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

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

#### Term Three

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Children return to school

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Year 5 Forest School starts

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Year 3 trip to Dover Museum

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

KS2 Young Carers to Pizza Express

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Year 3 swimming starts

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Year 5 dictionary presentation from Rotary club

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Mid-Year Reports Home

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

On Line Safety Day TBC

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Last day of term three for children – normal finish time

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Training day – school closed to children

#### Term Four

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Children return to school

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Year 1 Forest School starts

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Year 3 swimming starts

4th/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March

Book Fair

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Parent Consultations

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Parent Consultations

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

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

#### Term Five

May

Year 2 (KS1) assessment term

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Children return to school = SUMMER UNIFORM

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Year 3 Forest School starts

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

SATS week for Year 6

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Year six swimming

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Last day of term five – normal finish time

#### Term Six

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Children return to school

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Year 6 forest school starts

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Year 6 swimming (4 more sessions)

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Training day – school closed to children

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Training day – school closed to children

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Transition day – year 6 to new schools