

THE FEDERATION OF THE DOWNS & NORTHBOURNE CEP SCHOOLS

Newsletter - Term Three January 2019

Happy New Year

Welcome back to a new term and a new year.

Hopefully all your festive celebrations went well and time was enjoyed with family and friends. The children certainly seem very pleased with all their Christmas gifts and celebrations.

The staff and children look forward to working together with you as we embark on another exciting new term.

Our learning theme this term is **"Horrible Histories"**

Reception

In reception we will be looking at old and new teddy bears. We will write sentences about our own teddy bears and measure them using different equipment. We will get a chance to invent our own toys and test them. This term the focus in RE is on Bible stories. We will be learning stories from the New Testament.

Year One

The whole school will be travelling back in time this term to find out about different historical periods. We are going to be focussing on toys and games. We will be starting with what the children currently play with, what you played with as a child and then finding out what children played with in the Victorian period. Our RE theme this term is Gospel.

Year Two

We will be focusing our learning on finding out about a famous historical event - The Great Fire of London. The children will be developing their historical enquiry skills which will include asking and answering questions; identifying some of the different ways the past is represented; placing events on a time line and using historical vocabulary.

Year Three

This term our learning will take us from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will be looking at the story of the Stone Age boy, using ICT to recreate the story as well as writing instructions for washing a woolly mammoth. We will be learning about the lives of people that lived during these times. We are learning about Incarnation in RE.

Year Four

Rotten Romans! Our learning this term will take us back nearly 2000 years as we find out about the Roman army's invasion into Britain and the impact it had on the Celts and Queen Boudicca. In RE we will be looking at Gospel and our Big Question will be "What kind of world did Jesus want?"

Year Five

Year 5 will be studying the Anglo Saxons and Vikings, preparing non-chronological reports on the Vikings and investigating Viking myths and legends. In RE we will be learning about 'People of God.'
Year 5 will be visiting Forest School at Northbourne this term and the children will also be involved in the Prince William Award project.

Year Six

We are approaching this topic through studying the novel 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. We will focus on Victorian life. The children will be analysing the text with a strong focus on what is inferred by the author as well as literal responses. Our RE lessons will focus on the religion Islam and the children will be learning about the different features associated with Islam.

Parent Forum – Questionnaire

Also sent with this newsletter is a document outlining terms of reference for a proposed parent forum group. Please take the time to read the document and then go on to our school website www.downs.kent.sch.uk / parent news/ parent forum to respond to a short questionnaire which will help to determine whether there is the interest for a parent forum.



"What kind of world did Jesus want?"

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

Notable Achievements

Children are invited to share with the whole school their achievements in after school activities.

Although early in the term, Daisy Y5 was busy over the Christmas break taking part in a gymnastics competition, coming 2nd in a number of disciplines and 2nd overall.

Amazing achievement – well done

Term Two 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 2018 until 19th December 2018 is currently 96.0%.

RL	96.6%	2G	95.5%	4G	95.8%	6T	97.8%
RS	94.8%	2O	95.8%	4C	96.1%	6C	94.6%
1M	97.2%	3EU	97.3%	5T	96.1%	Whole school	96.0%
1P	95.0%	3B	95.7%	5A	96.4%		

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.

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.

Staffing news

Mr Exton's baby daughter was born safely and healthily at the start of this term. He will return to work on 17th January.

Mr Turner's role is changing from family liaison officer (FLO) to safeguarding officer as of this term. The role of all our external agencies has changed and many of the services we accessed are no longer available in the same way. Mr Turner will continue to work with all our families who have outside agency involvement and will still be available to support all our families by signposting them to services that may be available to them.

With this newsletter, there is a flow chart that hopefully explains how the school can work with you to support you and your child.

Policies

Two draft policies will shortly be on our website – behaviour for learning and anti-bullying. Currently staff and pupils have had a say in the content and we are now trialling the processes, hence the fact the policies are in draft form. Please do take time to read them and any feedback is welcome to assist us in fine tuning our policies. The children's feedback will also be available.

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

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

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

Y3, 4, 5 and 6 – Football PACE, Lego, Late night library, paper craft, 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 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 Three

Thursday 3 rd January	Children return to school
Monday 7 th January	Year 5 Forest School starts
Friday 11 th January	Year 3 swimming starts
Tuesday 15 th January	Year 3 trip to Dover Museum
Friday 18 th January	KS2 Young Carers to Pizza Express
Tuesday 22 nd January	Year 5 dictionary presentation from Rotary club
Friday 25 th January	Mid-Year Reports Home
Tuesday 5 th February	On Line Safety Day TBC
Thursday 14 th February	Last day of term three for children – normal finish time
Friday 15 th February	Training day – school closed to children

Term Four

Monday 25 th February	Children return to school
Monday 25 th February	Year 1 Forest School starts
Friday 1 st March	Year 3 swimming starts
4th/5 th /6 th /7 th March	Book Fair
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 2 nd April	Parent Consultations
Thursday 4 th April	Parent Consultations
Friday 5 th April	Last day of term four – children can be collected from 1.30pm

Term Five

Tuesday 23 rd April	Children return to school = SUMMER UNIFORM
Tuesday 23 rd April	Year 3 Forest School starts
May	Year 2 (KS1) assessment term
Monday 13 th -17 th May	SATS week for Year 6
Friday 24 th May	Year six swimming (session one)
Friday 24 th May	Last day of term five – normal finish time

Term Six

Monday 3 rd June	Children return to school
Monday 3 rd June	Year 6 forest school starts
Friday 7 th June	Year 6 swimming (4 more sessions)
Friday 21 st June	Training day – school closed to children
Monday 24 th June	Training day – school closed to children
Thursday 4 th July	Transition day – year 6 to new schools
Tuesday 9 th July	DLA Summer Cup
Thursday 11 th July	Reports Home
Friday 12 th July	Sports Day / Open Afternoon
Monday 15 th July	Reserve Sports Day / Open Afternoon
Monday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers Service TBC
Tuesday 23 rd July	Last day of term - children can be collected from 1.30pm