



DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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30th November 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Autumn term continues to be busy, with lots of exciting learning opportunities being provided for the children both inside and outside of the classroom including...

- Remembrance art work including displaying art work from every class for parents/carers to see, Rev. Archer delivered a remembrance assembly to the whole school, whole school and staff carried out a minute silence on the playground where two Year 6 pupils read a poem.
- Year 1 & Year 2 – animal experience session.
- Sporting Competitions - Year 5 & Year 6 Denefield tag rugby competition; KS2 cross country running competition with Purley Primary School; Y3/4 football tournament at Little Heath
- Year 4 - learning the guitar each week.
- Year 2 - learning the recorder each week.
- Year 1 and Foundation Stage – ‘Poetry & Pizzazz’ drama and poetry workshop through Corn Exchange.
- Year 5 - Science lesson at Denefield.
- Year 6 – Archaeologist talk.
- Year 4 – Blue Reef aquarium trip.
- Foundation stage – walks around the local area as part of their learning.
- Four Year 6 pupils took part in round 1 of the National Young Mathematicians award and are now through to round 2.
- Eight KS2 pupils took part in Denefield’s super learning day.
- Year 5 & 6 primary maths challenge.
- Foundation stage, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 – author visit (Grant Koper)
- Warbreck house winners for Autumn 1 received Pillo polo session.
- Mad Science assembly.

Reading

As a school we are working hard to ensure your child has the best possible education. Our excellent team of staff work tirelessly to ensure that your child achieves as much as they possibly can, but we need your help. Please try to make time to read with and read to your child. Not only will it help them to make good progress in reading but it will help them to develop that love of literature that we want our children to carry into later life.

Parent-Teacher meetings

Thank you for attending the parent-teacher meetings and we hope you found the meetings valuable. End of year expectation documents can be found on our website by clicking on the Parents/Carers tab, followed by clicking on Curriculum, then End of year expectations. Please remember if you have a question or query regarding your child, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office or your class teacher.

Children in Need & Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported these charity appeals. We raised just over £82 for the Poppy Appeal and £280 for Children in Need. Well done all!

Maths Workshop

Thank you to those who attended the maths workshop evening. The slides of the presentation is available through the school website, along with the different handouts. They can be found by clicking on the Parents/Carers tab, followed by clicking on Curriculum, then Maths Workshop.

Christmas Cards

As of the 3rd December, the children may send Christmas cards to other children in the school using our 'Christmas Post Box' which will be located outside the library. Please ensure you label the envelope clearly with the child's full name, and state which year group the child is in as a few Year 6 pupils will sort the cards out and deliver to the necessary classes. Please be mindful that if your child is sending Christmas cards to the majority of the children in their class, then please consider sending cards to the whole class. Of course, if your child is only sending a few cards to the children in their class, then this does not apply.

Super Learning Day at Denefield – reported by Mrs Scott who very kindly accompanied the children to this event

Eight students attended the Super Learning Day at Denefield. The students were mixed up with students from Long Lane, Purley and Westwood Farm into three groups, assisted by two Year 7 Denefield pupils. Benny, Eliza, Charlie and James were green team, Iona and Ella blue and Ruby and Timmy red team. Two groups moved off to Philosophy and Science whilst the third group remained in the room. The groups then spent the morning rotating to each session.

The teams were set the challenge to make the tallest tower that would hold a marshmallow on the top from the following equipment: spaghetti, string, tape and scissors. They had two 20 mins timed sessions to achieve this. The green team's sub team of Charlie, Eliza, Charlie and James measured 54 cm but as it leaned deteriorated to 52.5 cm!

Philosophy – This was a circle session to give their thoughts on questions posed e.g, should you bully a bully? Then they were asked to write their own questions with the thought "What if there was no religion?" They then shared their views on the questions. Charlie and James contributed to every question and Charlie won the prize for top student of the day in Philosophy. They were then asked to anonymously put questions in the box regarding secondary school.

Science – The topic was solids, liquids and gases. The children had to classify items into the groups. There was a discussion on some chemical symbols for gases and they looked at some non-Newtonian liquids (Ooblecks). They were then given a tray of a cornflour/water mixture and had the chance to hit it hard and then touch it gently to determine if a liquid or solid. They then watched a short video of someone walking on a pool custard. After that they made their own slime using PVA glue, sodium carbonate and eye drops!

The three groups then came together to work on an Apprentice-style challenge. Each team had to create a business, a logo and a slogan. After lunch and a quick walk around the school, each team had to pitch their business. Before leaving awards were given out, as well as Charlie, Eliza won the top student award for science. A good day for Downsway!

Apps

Thank you for support with the various apps/web links we are now using. It is our aim to make things more streamline, convenient and effective through the use of technology! If you are however having any problems with setting any of them up, please do let the office know, as we are more than happy to help.

Staff Update

We welcome Mrs Powell to the teaching staff team and is currently teaching in Year 3 on Wednesdays and we also welcome back Mrs Cox who is working on Tuesday mornings within the Year 6 team.

Parents/Carers/Family Members 'Shout Outs!'

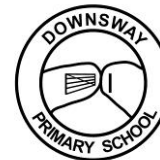
We would like to say a BIG thank you for all our parents, carers and family members who have supported in school, with a trip or an event this half term. We really appreciate all your support as without your support these events would not be able to take place.

- Mr Higgs for helping with transporting the children to the football tournament at Crosfields.
- Ms Jones for helping with transporting the children to the football tournament at Crosfields.
- Friends of Downsway – for organising the children's discos.
- Parents/carers who helped at the children's discos.
- Parent/carers who helped with setting up for the Christmas Fayre, running a stall or/and tidying up at the end.
- Mrs Harman & Mrs Hale for helping with transporting the children to the cross country running competition.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K. Ayres
Headteacher



Important Dates for 2018/2019

Autumn 1	Wednesday 5 th September 2018 - Friday 19 th October 2018
Half Term	Monday 22 nd October – Monday 29 th October 2018
Autumn 2	Tuesday 30 th October 2018 - Thursday 20 th December 2018 (<i>Pupils finish at 1.30pm</i>)
Christmas Holiday	Friday 21 st December 2018 – Friday 4 th January 2019
Spring Term 3	Monday 7 th January 2019 - Friday 15 th February 2019
Half Term	Monday 18 th February – Friday 22 nd February 2019
Spring Term 4	Monday 25 th February 2019 - Friday 5 th April 2019 (<i>Pupils finish at 1.30pm</i>)
Spring Holiday	Monday 8 th April – Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
Summer Term 5	Wednesday 24 th April 2019 - Thursday 23 rd May 2019
Half Term	Friday 24 th May – Friday 31 st May 2019
Summer Term 6	Monday 3 rd June 2019 - Wednesday 24 th July 2019 (<i>Pupils finish at 1.30pm</i>)

Please note that INSET days will be held during the school holidays.

Welcome time

- Spring Term 2018 – week beginning 14th January 2019
- Summer Term 2018 – week beginning 6th May 2019

Parents' Meetings

- Spring Term – Tuesday 23rd April 2019 (All day – please note this is an INSET day)

Productions

- Foundation/Year 1/Year 2 – Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December 2018 at 2pm
- Year 3/Year 4 – Wednesday 27th March at 2pm & Thursday 28th March 2019 at 6pm
- Year 6 – Wednesday 10th July at 6pm and Thursday 11th July 2019 at 2pm

Statutory Testing

- Year 1 phonics screening – w/b 10th June 2019
- Year 2 SATs – May 2019
- Year 6 SATs – w/b 13th May 2019

Residential Trips

- Year 4 residential (Ufton Court) – Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Whole School Events

- Children's Christmas lunch & children may also wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt with their school uniform trousers/skirt with a suggestion donation of £1 for Save the Children Christmas Jumper day – Friday 14th December 2018
- World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2019
- Science 'week' – w/b 11th March 2019
- Comic Relief: Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March 2019
- Health & Fitness Week – w/b 24th June 2019
- Sports 'Day' – Friday 28th June 2019 at 1.15pm
- Race for Life – Wednesday 26th June 2019
- Talent Show – Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Year Group Specific Events

Year 3:

- Year 3 science trip at Baylab UK, Reading – 26th April 2019

Year 4:

- Music project (guitar) through Berkshire Maestros commencing on the 18th September 2018 until 22nd January 2019
- Year 4 Science trip at Baylab UK, Reading – 30th January 2019

Year 5:

- Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Centre – 4th December 2018

Year 6:

- Year 6 SATs information evening (*For current Year 6 parents*) – Wednesday 6th March 2018 at 6pm in school hall
- Year 6 science trip at Baylab UK, Reading – Wednesday 3rd April 2019
- Year 6 Bikeability training - 10th & 11th June 2019
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Wednesday 24th July 2019 at 9.30am for Year 6 family members

Dates not on my October Newsletter:

- Year 4 trip to Reading museum – Wednesday 5th December 2018
- Explore Learning Round 2 for four Year 6 pupils – Wednesday 5th December 2018
- Year 5 Fire Safety talk – Tuesday 11th December 2018
- Year 4 Ufton court residential trip meeting for parents/carers – Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 3.15pm in Miss King's classroom
- Foundation Stage Christmas party at 2pm where parents/carers can arrive – Monday 17th December 2018
- Year 5 Manor Adventure meeting for parents/carers – Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 3.30pm in Mr Grover's classroom.
- Year 3 trip to Roald Dahl museum – Wednesday 23rd January 2018