



DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Warbreck Drive
Tilehurst
RG31 6FE

Telephone: 0118 942 1362

Headteacher: Mrs K. Ayres

E-mail: office@downsway.w-berks.sch.uk

18th December 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas. The staff and children have worked so hard all term and they will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries. We have had a busy and successful term and I hope you have enjoyed the monthly newsletter, latest news section on the website and weekly reminders where we have tried to keep you up to date with what we have been doing, as well as giving reminders on key events. The website app does make accessing the school calendar and the latest news section very easy, so I would recommend downloading it if you haven't already!

Christmas Performances

Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2 children were excited about performing 'Prickly Hay' to their family members and their enthusiasm and enjoyment were matched by the quality of performances they gave - fabulous! Well done to our talented children for giving their best, and many thanks to all the Infant staff who worked so hard to enable the children to perform so successfully.

England Red Roses Womens 15's & current 7's player visited Downsway!

Alex Matthews, England Red Roses Womens 15's & current 7's player, visited Downsway last week to see Year 4 and Year 5 as they have been learning Tag Rugby this term with our sport coaches. The children gained information about Alex and also had the opportunity to ask her questions. Alex has been involved in two World Cup finals and competed at her first Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. She was one of the younger players in the England squad to lift the 2014 World Cup and the 24-year-old has over 30 caps under her belt.

Year 4 Trip to Reading Museum

Year 4 had a great trip to the Reading museum where they had a range of activities linked to the Bayeux Tapestry and their curriculum theme of 1066.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

As a school we are always looking at ways to improve further and to be the very best school we can be, and therefore we require some feedback! In order to receive feedback, I would be extremely grateful if you could please complete the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire by the 9th January 2019 as this will enable us as a school to easily see the views of our parents/carers. After the 9th, we will then look at the data and plan our next steps accordingly.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Year 5 Fire Safety Talk

Year 5 received a Fire Safety talk last week from some of the crew based at the Dee Road station. The talk was divided into two sessions; one in the classroom about the importance of keeping safe in relation to fires and the other outside learning about the fire engine.

Friends of Downsway

A MASSIVE thank you to Friends of Downsway who have raised £3107 during this Autumn term. The very small committee work tirelessly to raise vital funds for the school and we appreciate the time taken to organise and run so many events. If you would like to join FOD, please let the school office know. Thank you to all of our parents/carers who have supported the Autumn term events, such as the Christmas fayre, Parents Presents, Discos, Uniform sales, Halloween Trail, Christmas Cards designs, etc. as without your support these events would not be successful.

Charities

Since September we have supported the following charities:

- ReadiFood bank (Harvest collection) for local residents – 66kg of food = 158 meals
- Poppy Appeal - £82.66
- Children in Need - £280
- Save the Children (Christmas Jumper day) - £173
- Downsway Primary School (a wide range of events organised by Friends of Downsway) - £3107 raised during the Autumn term.

We are very grateful for your generosity and support – thank you!

Lost Property

Please ensure you check the lost property box in reception before the End of Term, as any unnamed and unclaimed items will be donated to Friends of Downsway and other local charities.

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 it as without your support, these events would not be able to take place.

- Friends of Downsway for all the events they have organised during the Autumn term.
- Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 family members who came to watch their Christmas production.
- Ms Jones and Mrs Dixon for helping on the Year 4 school trip to the Reading museum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for the support you have given to all the staff at Downsway. We really do appreciate all that you do to make Downsway a successful and happy school. I know I am extremely lucky to work with such an amazing team; pupils, parents/carers, staff and Governors.

School closes for the Christmas holiday this Thursday (20th December) at 1.30pm and we return on Monday 7th January 2019, for the Spring term.

From all of us at Downsway, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

Parents' Meetings

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

Productions

- 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

- 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 3 trip to Roald Dahl museum – Wednesday 23rd January 2018

Year 4:

- Music project (guitar) through Berkshire Maestros commencing on the 18th September 2018 until 12th February 2019
- Year 4 Science trip at Baylab UK, Reading – 30th January 2019
- Year 4 Ufton court residential trip meeting for parents/carers – Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 3.15pm in Miss King's classroom

Year 5:

- Year 5 Manor Adventure meeting for parents/carers – Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 3.30pm in Mr Grover's classroom (Year 6 classroom)

Year 6:

- Year 6 SATs information evening (*For current Year 6 parents*) – Wednesday 6th March 2019 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 November Newsletter:

- Year 6 History off the Page – Monday 28th January 2019
- Year 6 trip to Haymarket theatre – Friday 1st February 2019
- Year 1 trip to Lookout Discovery – Wednesday 13th March 2019
- Year 4 swimming at Oratory School – February/March 2019 (*more details to follow*)