



# DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

As I write this newsletter our Health & Fitness week is in full swing! It was lovely to see so many family members joining us for our Race for Life and we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Downsway community for the donations received for Cancer Research – £581.72 + £95 from gift aid. Wow!

**News in Brief** (*since the last whole school newsletter. More information can be found on our latest news section of the website for these events*)

- Year 2 – drama sessions through Corn Exchange
- Foundation Stage Didi rugby sessions
- Years 4 & 5 cricket sessions
- Bags to school collection – £64.80 raised
- Writer in residence, James Carter visit 4
- School Council trip to Houses of Parliament
- ICC Cricket World Cup match at Hampshire Bowl
- Race for Life – £676.72 raised
- Health & Fitness Week activities
- Sports 'Day' – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 1.15pm
- Year 2 trip to Windsor Castle
- Year 3 trip to Reading Museum
- Years 5 & 6 rounders and cricket completion at Denefield
- Year 1 children completed the statutory phonics screening check
- Year 4 residential trip to Ufton Court
- Year 5 Kwik Cricket festival at Theale and Englefield Cricket club
- Maths workshops for parents/carers
- Two netball matches against Birch Copse Primary school
- Alzheimer's Society cupcake sale - £120 raised
- Swift Awareness assembly delivered to all children by Ailsa Claybourn
- Career in Animals trip for five Year 6 children at Baylab, Green Park
- Mindset assembly – NED (Never give up - *understand the power of yet*; Encourage others - *spark courage in other people*; Do their best - *always be learning and growing*)

If you have downloaded our website app onto your device, you will receive all our latest news notifications straightaway!

### **Warmer Weather**

I hope I haven't jinxed it by writing this, however it looks like the sun has finally made an appearance! Please ensure your child has their water bottle and hat in school. Should the temperatures increase further and West Berkshire issue a Heat Wave notification, we may have to introduce a rule of not going out in the sun without a hat in order to ensure the children are safe. Please apply sun cream to your child before coming into school and older children may bring sun cream in to school to apply themselves.

### **Spelling**

We hope you have found the weekly spelling strategy, which has been uploaded to the school website latest news section each Friday, useful and that you are beginning to build a bank of possible spelling strategies to use at home to help your child learning their spellings in a fun way.

### **Children's Birthday Sweets**

There is no expectation on children's birthday to bring in sweets for the rest of the class, however I know it is popular! In addition, should you rather not bring in sweets due to health reasons or due to food allergies, alternatives such as a sticker, rubber, tattoo, can be considered.

### **Change of May Bank Holiday Date 2020**

We have been informed by the Department for Education that the early May bank holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Therefore Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 will be a normal school day for all children.

### **Information Leaflets**

We have placed on our website information leaflets for parents/carers regarding ADHD, autism, anxiety, mental health, self-esteem, stammering, etc. and these can be found on our SEND page should you wish to look at them.

### **Staffing Update**

We welcome Mrs Fox to the role of school secretary whilst Miss Smith is on maternity leave. Mrs Fox has settled into the Downsway team brilliantly, and if you haven't met her yet, then please say 'hello' next time you're passing the office!

Mrs Spooner will be leaving Downsway at the end of the academic year as she is planning on starting a new business – a coffee shop on Overdown Road. We wish you every success with your new adventure.

Following interviews for a Curriculum and Phase leader, Miss Rackley has been appointed to this role starting September 2019. Miss Rackley will be our English leader for the whole school and Phase leader for Foundation/KS1.

As a result, the leadership teams for September 2019 will be:

- Senior Leadership Team - Mrs Ayres as Headteacher, Mr Grover as Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Hobbs as School Business Manager and Mr Edwards as Inclusion Manager.
- Middle Leadership - Miss Rackley as Curriculum and Phase Leader.

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

- Mrs Alami, Mrs Azzabi, and Mrs Cox for taking on 'Stay & Play' weekly sessions.
- Mrs Little for helping with the Year 3 trip to Reading Museum.
- Mr Elphick, Mr Panting and Mr Hickman for helping with the trip to Southampton to watch a cricket match as part of the World Cup cricket series.
- FoD for organising the second-hand uniform sale.
- All the parents/carers who took part in our Race for Life – your medals were well earned!
- All the parents/carers who bought a cupcake and help raised £120 for the Alzheimer's society.
- All the parents/carers who filled a bag for 'Bags 2School' collection and help raised £64.80 for Downsway.
- All the parents/carers who attended the maths workshops delivered by Mr Grover – presentation is on the latest news section of the website.

Finally, we hope to see many of you at our sports day this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K. Ayres  
Headteacher



## Important Dates for 2018/2019

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

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

## **Productions**

- Year 6 – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 6pm (*on field*)

## **Whole School Events**

- Whole school and class photos – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019
- Writer in residence, James Carter visit 5 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019
- Transition morning (*children will spend time with their September 2019 staff*) – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019
- Talent Show – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

## **Year Group Specific Events**

### **Foundation Stage:**

- Foundation stage Didi rugby sessions with specialist sports coach starting on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, until the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- Foundation Stage trip to London Transport Museum – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **Year 4:**

- Years 4 & 5 cricket sessions with specialist cricket coach starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June until the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **Year 5:**

- Years 4 & 5 cricket sessions with specialist cricket coach starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June until the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- Year 5 trip to Wokingham Waterside Centre – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **Year 6:**

- Year 6 Bikeability training – *Dates to be confirmed*
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 9.30am for Year 6 family members

### **Dates not on my May 2019 Newsletter:**

- Athletics competition at Denefield for selected Year 5 pupils – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- Triathlon for selected children – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- Foundation Stage, Years 1 & 2 – Poetry Gala where parents/carers are invited to attend – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 10.40 am – 11 am in hall.
- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 – Poetry Gala where parents/carers are invited to attend – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 11.10 am 11.40 am in hall.
- Year 5 trip to Ufton Court – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- Foundation Stage trip to Four Kingdom – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.