



# DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Challenging Minds, Changing Futures.*

Headteacher: Mrs K. Ayres

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24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a busy and successful first half term of the academic year. Below is a brief summary of some of the events which have taken place recently. More information can be found on our latest news section of the website or via the school app.

- Christmas Fair donations - Thank you very much for the chocolate and bottles donations
- FoD children's discos - £412.21 was raised.
- Year 6 residential at Manor Adventure – children took part in a range of activities such as abseiling, wall climbing, zip wiring, raft building, etc. The Year 6 class page has some photos of their fun!
- Foundation stage – Talk like pirate day
- Year 6 trip to Milestones
- Years 3 to 6 Wellbeing Warrior workshops
- World Mental Health awareness day
- Year 2 – fruit tasting from around the world
- Years 3 & 4 – tag rugby sessions with specialist coach
- Year 5 – Egyptian themed escape room
- Harvest Festival assembly led by Rev. Archer
- Foundation stage trip to Ella's Kitchen
- Foundation Stage phonics drop-in sessions for parents/carers
- Year 5/6 football tournaments at Little Heath School.
- Year 4 children took part in a maths challenge competition at Crosfields School - 7th out of 36 teams
- Year 1 – 'Enchanted Woodland' walk to Sulham woods
- Year 5 & 6 Hockey festival (Phoenix & Raneleigh) – league winners
- Macmillan Coffee Morning - thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan coffee morning and to Miss Gale for organising it. It was our most successful one to date. £604 raised!
- Years 1 to 6 - NSPCC talks on 'Speak out, stay safe'
- Foundation stage – Grandparents 'day'
- Harvest donations – thank you for your generosity

### **Parent/Carer Helpers**

We value having an extra pair of hands within the classroom for specific projects and to listen to children read, so if you are able to offer any help then please do let your child's class teacher or the office know. We are appreciative of any help received. Thank you to the parents/carers who have volunteered already.

## **Secondary School Applications**

If you have a child in Year 6, the deadline for submitting your secondary school application is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## **Previous Year 6**

Our previous Year 6 pupils have donated a tree as a result of some of the money they raised through their Young Enterprise projects. It was a very thoughtful and kind donation, and it was lovely to see some many of the children return this week to plant it. THANK YOU!

## **Prospective Parents/Carers Tours**

I have been busy carrying out tours for prospective parents/carers who have children which are due to start a primary school in September 2020. As I show parents/carers around the school I am always incredibly proud of the children and staff for making Downsway such a great school. Prospective parents/carers always comment on the welcoming atmosphere and how they are impressed with what they see. The email below received from a prospective parent shows how lucky and privileged I am to be Headteacher at Downsway, and how grateful I am for all that you do as our current parents/carers to make Downsway a flourishing, supportive and happy school.

*"We just wanted to thank you again for your time this morning. We left Downsway feeling very positive. The school looked immaculate, the children and staff seemed very engaged and you were all very welcoming. A lovely visit."*

## **Parent-Teacher Meetings – after school/evening appointments**

Thank you to all the parents/carers which have booked your appointment for parents' evening taking place the week after half term on the online booking system. Please ensure that if you haven't had an opportunity to book an appointment yet, that you do so before the deadline of 11pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019. Unfortunately, it will be very difficult to arrange an appointment outside of the time slots available on these two dates.

You will have also noticed that Mr Edwards, Inclusion Manager will be available on the second Parent's Evening (7th November). This could be an opportunity to discuss any concerns or ask any questions linked to Special Educational Needs. These meetings will be 15 minutes long and take place in the Nurture Room (which is located at the back of the school hall). Should you wish to make an appointment, please do so in the same way you would book your parent's evening appointment with your child's teacher.

## **Children's Emotional Wellbeing**

As part of our curriculum to ensure that all our pupils have the best provision possible to promote positive emotional wellbeing, this term we have introduced additional opportunities for the children.

KS2 children have been part of a six-week Wellbeing Warriors project, which has helped children to understand what wellbeing is and what it means/looks like for them; empowered and motivated them to look after their own wellbeing' Built children's confidence and resilience; Developed children's creativity. The 6 sessions have included; Session 1: What is Wellbeing?, Session 2: Physical Wellbeing (exercise, nutrition and body image), Session 3: Mental and Emotional Wellbeing (self-care, happy thoughts and managing emotions), Session 4: Social Wellbeing (Friendships and social media), Session 5: Education Wellbeing (Stress and growth mind-set) and Session 6: Holistic Wellbeing (yoga and meditation)

After October half term, Foundation and Years 1 and 2 will be receiving weekly yoga sessions.

## **Bags 2 School**

The children will be bringing home a Bag 2 School today. Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in good quality second hand clothing that can be re-used and we have arranged for a collection on Tuesday 19 November. Therefore if you are able to fill your bag, please bring this in to school either after school on Monday 18 November, or Tuesday 19 November before school. We cannot take the bags earlier than this due to storage. Many thanks for your support as by taking part in this, we are able to raise additional funds for the school.

## **Downsway Primary School Judo Club – Spaces available!**

Fancy trying your hand at the exciting and dynamic Olympic Sport of Judo? Well good news, it's still not too late to join in on the fun with your school friends and try the popular activity of Judo.

Judo is a fascinating and tremendous sport demanding both physical strength and mental discipline. Formed and developed in Japan, Judo was invented to improve balance, co-ordination and self-belief; qualities that are transferable to many life and sporting situations.

To experience Judo you need to have a go, so why not come along to your school Judo club for a no-obligation trial lesson after half term on Friday 8th November from 8:00 - 8:45am in the school hall to see what it is all about. All you need to wear for your first session is your PE kit.

To book your place, please either contact [procoachJudo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:procoachJudo@yahoo.co.uk) or alternatively, just turn up on the day. All new comers will be assured of a very warm welcome.

If after a successful trial you wish your child to join the club, fees for the remaining half of the term are £33.00 (including kit hire for the half term) or £30.00 (excluding kit hire).

## **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.

- FoD for organising the school discos
- Parents/carers who helped at the children's discos
- Parents/carers who attend the FoD AGM
- Mrs Bostock for listening to children read
- Mrs Dixon for listening to children read
- Mrs Hadrell, Mrs Edwards and Miss Bolton for helping with the Year 1 walk to Sulham woods
- Parents of children selected for the football competitions at Little Health for helping with transport

Finally, we hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K. Ayres  
Headteacher



## Important Dates for 2019/2020

<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<i>Half Term</i>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019</b>
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 ( <i>Pupils finish at 1.30 pm</i> )
<i>Christmas Holiday</i>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020</b>

<b>Spring Term 3</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<i>Half Term</i>	<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020</b>
<b>Spring Term 4</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019 ( <i>Pupils finish at 1.30 pm</i> )
<i>Spring Holiday</i>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>

<b>Summer Term 5</b>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2020 - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020
<i>Half Term</i>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>

<b>Summer Term 6</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020 - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 ( <i>Pupils finish at 1.30 pm</i> )
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**Please note that INSET days will be held during the school holidays.**

### Welcome time

- Spring Term 2020 – week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Summer Term 2020 – week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

### Parents' Meetings

- Autumn Term – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November (3.30 – 6.30 pm) & Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (4 – 7 pm)
- Spring Term – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 (All day – please note this is an INSET day)

### Productions

- Foundation/Year 1/Year 2 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 2pm
- Year 3/Year 4 – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm & Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6pm
- Year 6 – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 6pm

### Statutory Testing

- Year 1 phonics screening – Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Year 2 SATs – May 2020
- Year 4 multiplication tables check - 3 week period from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Year 6 SATs – Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Residential Trips

- Year 4 residential (Ufton Court) – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Whole School Events

- Harvest Donations for ReadiFood - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- Foundation Stage, Year 1 & Year 2 weekly Yoga sessions with specialist yoga teacher, starting 4<sup>th</sup> November until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign - Christmas Shoe Box donations between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Individual Photos of pupils/siblings – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Remembrance (1 minute silence on the playground at 11 am) - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Children in Need – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Nasal flu vaccination (all year groups) – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- FOD Christmas Fayre – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019
- Maths workshop on multiplication and division for parents/carers – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 2 pm & 6 pm in The Hub. *The workshop will last one hour and the contents covered will be the same in both workshops.*

- Children's Christmas lunch & children may also wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt with their school uniform trousers/skirt with a suggestion donation of 50p for 'Save the Children Christmas Jumper day' – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Creativity week - week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020
- World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Sports Relief - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020
- Science week – week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Health & Fitness Week – week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020
- Race for Life Colour Run – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – family members invited to take part
- Field events part for Sports Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for children only. No spectators!
- Sports 'Day' – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 1.15 pm for family members to watch
- Whole school and class photos – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Transition morning (*children will spend time with their September 2020 staff*) – July 2020
- Talent Show – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **Year Group Specific Events**

#### **Foundation Stage (FS):**

- Foundation Stage - 10 Didi rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Summer term, starting 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

#### **Year 1:**

- Year 1 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Spring term, starting 15<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*

#### **Year 2:**

- Year 2 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 25<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### **Year 3:**

- Year 3 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Autumn term, starting 25<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*
- Year 3 trip to Waterside Centre – end of March/beginning of April 2019

#### **Year 4:**

- Year 4 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Autumn term, starting 25<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*
- Music project (Ukulele) through Berkshire Maestros commencing 21<sup>st</sup> April until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- Year 4 swimming at Oratory School – Spring Term 2020
- Year 4 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Summer term, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

#### **Year 5:**

- Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Centre – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Year 5 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Spring term, starting 15<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*
- Year 5 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Summer term, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- Year 5 meeting for parents/carers regarding Year 6 residential trip – Spring term 2020
- Year 5 trip to Wokingham Waterside Centre – Summer 2<sup>nd</sup> half term (June/July 2020)

**Year 6:**

- Year 6 Manor Adventure showcase to parents – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 2.30 pm in hall
- Year 6 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 25<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Year 6 SATs information session – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 3.20 pm in Mr Grover's classroom.
- Year 6 Bikeability training – Summer Term 2020
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 9.30 am for Year 6 family members

**Dates not on my September newsletter:**

- Whole School - Remembrance assembly delivered by Rev. Archer, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Year 4 – Dental talk, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Whole School – Mad Science assembly, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Whole School – Advent assembly delivered by Rev. Archer, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019