



DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Challenging Minds, Changing Futures.

Headteacher: Mrs K. Ayres

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17th December 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we come towards 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 – it has been a busy and successful one. The children and staff will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries!

Christmas Performances

We are extremely proud of all our children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 for putting on two great performances of their Christmas nativity, "A Midwife Crisis" for parents, carers and family members. They had a number of lines to learn, songs to sing and dance routines to remember, which they executed to perfection. Well done to all the children and thank you to everyone who attended.

Children's Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

It was lovely to see so many children wearing a Christmas jumper or T-shirt and enjoying their Christmas lunch. Our school caterers did a fantastic job and cooked a delicious roast dinner for everyone to enjoy. Friends of Downsway were also extremely busy running 'presents for parents' for the children to buy gifts for family members. Thank you to all the parents/carers who volunteered to run this. We will let you know how much we have raised once all the coins have been counted!

Choir

Last week our choir created a festive atmosphere at Waitrose by singing a range of Christmas songs. The children enjoyed singing songs for our community and in the process raised just over £79 for Downsway! Well done to all the children in choir - you were superb. Thank you to Miss King for organising this opportunity and to the parents who supported this event on a rather wet and damp afternoon! Thank you to Waitrose for their generosity with providing the children with biscuits and hot chocolate afterwards.

Other events which have taken place since my previous newsletter;

- ✓ Foundation Stage Christmas Stay & Play
- ✓ Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 yoga sessions
- ✓ Years 3 & 4 tag rugby sessions
- ✓ Year 6 badminton sessions at Cotswold sports centre
- ✓ Years 5 & 6 cross country running competition at Denefield – winners!
- ✓ Longleat winning house treat – film and pop corn
- ✓ Year 1 Christmas fairy tea party

Lost Property

Please ensure you check the lost property box in the main reception area 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.

- Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 family members who came to watch their Christmas production
- Friends of Downsway for organising the Christmas fair
- Parents/carers who ran a stall at the Christmas fair
- Mrs Dixon (Y2 & Y5) for listening to children read
- Mrs Dixon (FS & Y2) for listening to children read
- Mrs McGoldrick for listening to children read
- Parents/carers who helped with 'presents for parents'

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.

School closes for the Christmas holiday this Friday (20th December) at 1.30 pm and we return on Monday 6th January 2020 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 2019/2020

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

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

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

Summer Term 6	Monday 1 st June 2020 - Friday 17 th 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 13th January 2020
- Summer Term 2020 – week beginning 1st June 2020

Productions

- Year 3/Year 4 – Wednesday 25th March at 2pm & Thursday 26th March 2020 at 6pm
- Year 6 – Wednesday 8th July at 6pm and Thursday 9th July 2020 at 6pm

Statutory Testing

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

Residential Trips

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

Whole School Events

- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 16th January 2020
- School Choir performing at O2, Young Voices – 5th February 2020
- Creativity week - week beginning 2nd March 2020
- World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2020
- Sports Relief - Friday 13th March 2020
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 2nd April 2020
- Science week – week beginning 18th May 2020
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 18th June 2020
- Health & Fitness Week – week beginning 22nd June 2020
- Race for Life Colour Run – Wednesday 24th June 2020 – family members invited to take part
- Field events part for Sports Day – Thursday 25th June 2020 for children only. No spectators!
- Sports 'Day' – Friday 26th June 2020 at 1.15 pm for family members to watch
- Whole school and class photos – Monday 29th June 2020
- Transition morning (*children will spend time with their September 2020 staff*) – July 2020
- Talent Show – Thursday 16th July 2020

Year Group Specific Events

Foundation Stage (FS):

- Foundation Stage, Years 1, 2 & 3 drama workshops – Friday 7th February 2020
- Foundation Stage - 10 Didi rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Summer term, starting 22nd April to 1st July 2020

Year 1:

- Year 1 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Spring term, starting 15th January to 25th March 2020. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*
- Foundation Stage, Years 1, 2 & 3 drama workshops – Friday 7th February 2020

Year 2:

- Year 2 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 25th February to 19th May 2020
- Foundation Stage, Years 1, 2 & 3 drama workshops – Friday 7th February 2020

Year 3:

- Year 3 trip to Waterside Centre – end of March/beginning of April 2019

Year 4:

- Music project (Ukulele) through Berkshire Maestros commencing 21st April until 14th July 2020
- Year 4 swimming at Oratory School – starting 24th February 2020
- Year 4 trip to Baylab – 11th March 2020
- Year 4 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Summer term, starting 2nd June to 14th July 2020

Year 5:

- Year 5 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Spring term, starting 15th January to 25th 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 2nd June to 14th July 2020
- Year 5 trip to Wokingham Waterside Centre – Summer 2nd half term (June/July 2020)

Year 6:

- Year 6 World War II day – 21st January 2020
- Year 6 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 25th February to 19th May 2020
- Year 6 SATs information session – Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 3.20 pm in Mr Grover's classroom.
- Year 6 trip to Baylab – 3rd April 2020
- Year 6 Bikeability training – Summer Term 2020
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Friday 17th July 2020 at 9.30 am for Year 6 family members

Dates not on my November newsletter:

- Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas party – Thursday 19th December 2020
- Year 3 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 26th February to 1st April 2020
- Year 4 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 4th March to 20th May 2020
- Year 6 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 4th March to 1st April 2020
- Year 3 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 22nd April to 1st July 2020
- Year 5 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 3rd June to 1st July 2020