



DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Challenging Minds, Changing Futures.

Headteacher: Mrs K. Ayres

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14th January 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I can't believe we are about to start the February half term break – where has the time gone?!

News in Brief since Previous Newsletter *(more on our website under latest news)*

- Year 5 – Badminton sessions at Cotswold Sports centre
- Year 1 – Tag Rugby sessions with specialist tag rugby coaches
- Foundation Stage – trip to Little Street Role Play
- Year 5 – Tag Rugby sessions with specialist tag rugby coaches
- Netball match against Springfield Primary School: Downsway 20 – Springfield 1
- Foundation Stage – Community walk
- Year 4 - children received a visit from a special guest, Norma. Norma has recently climbed to Everest Base Camp so she shared her photos and her journey of up and down the mountain.
- Year 5 – Reading museum trip
- Foundation Stage – Thames Water visit
- Year 1 trip – Winchester Science museum
- Year 4 – Climbing wall experience
- Foundation Stage, Years 1 to 3 – Drama workshops ('Around the World')
- Year 2 – PE sessions with Brookfields sports leaders
- Year 6 – Johnny Ball maths event
- Cross country running competition against Purley Primary School - In the Year 4 race, Max M-B came 1st. In the Year 5 race, Beth finished 2nd and Ethan Clarke 3rd. In the Year 6, Daniel came 3rd.
- Choir – performed at the O2 as part of Young Voices
- Netball match against Pangbourne Primary School : Downsway 20 – Pangbourne 1

Earrings

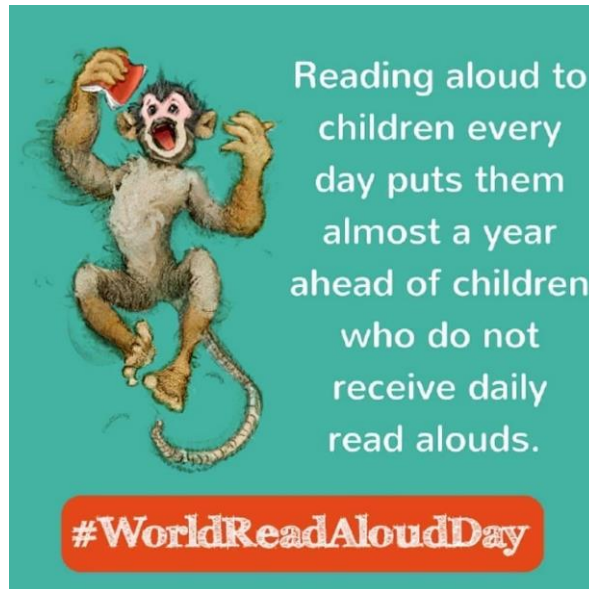
As per our uniform policy, children are only permitted to wear one small 'silver' or 'gold' ear stud in each ear lobe. Hoops and drop dangle earrings are not allowed. Should children wear these to school they will be asked to remove them or have tape placed over them if they can't take them out.

Medication

As of Monday 10 February 2020 we are no longer administering pain relief such as Calpol or Ibuprofen to children unless the medication has been provided by parents/carers. If you feel your child may require Calpol or Ibuprofen during the school day, please supply a small bottle of medication, clearly labelled with your child's name, to the school office at the start of the school day and complete a medicine form.

Reading

It wouldn't be a monthly newsletter without a mention about reading! As a school, we place reading at the heart of everything we do and adults reading to children is part of our reading strategy, however we need your help! It would be wonderful if parents/carers and family members read to their child, even if it was just for a short period of time, twice a week. The impact of children hearing adults read to them with fluency and expression, is really powerful.



Judo Club

In the sport of Judo, pupils are graded by coloured belts: white, yellow, orange and so on. Throughout the year, pupil's progress within the school judo club is assessed, with in-class grading assessments. Congratulations to Savni for gaining her orange belt at Downsway judo club. Well done!

Fancy trying your hand at the exciting and dynamic Olympic Sport of Judo? Well good news, The School Judo Club currently has spaces available and it's still not too late into the term to join in on the fun with your school friends and practice 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 28th February from 8:00-8:45am in the School hall too 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 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 month. We really appreciate it as without your support, these events would not be able to take place.

- 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 who supported the choir at the O2
- Mrs Jones and Mrs Dixon for helping with the Year 5 trip

- Mrs Edwards, Mrs Cox and for helping with the Year 1 trip
- Parents/carers who attended the maths workshops
- Ralph's grandad for coming into Year 1 to support with music

Thank you so much for your continued support this term. We really appreciate all that you do. I hope you have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 24th February 2020.

Yours sincerely,

K Ayres

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

- 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

- Creativity week - week beginning 2nd March 2020
- World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2020
- Whole School – ‘Bringing books to life dance’ workshops, Monday 9th 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 - 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.*
- Year 1 – Grandparents afternoon, Tuesday 17th March 2020, 1.30 pm – 3 pm

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 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 26th February to 1st April 2020
- Year 3 trip to Waterside Centre – end of March/beginning of April 2019
- Year 3 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 22nd April to 1st July 2020

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 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 4th March to 20th May 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 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 3rd June to 1st July 2020
- 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 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 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 4th March to 1st April 2020
- 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 January 2020 newsletter:

- Whole school – Water Safety assemblies, Thursday 27th February 2020
- Whole school – parents/carers in to join in with art lessons as part of creativity week, Tuesday 3rd March 2020, 1 pm – 3 pm
- Whole school – World Book day – Under the Sea dress up day, Thursday 5th March 2020
- Whole school – Pop up gallery in hall of the children’s work from Creativity week, Friday 6th March 2020, from 3 pm
- Year 3 – Dementia Friends session, Thursday 19th March 2020
- Year 6 – Coping with worries, Friday 29th March 2020