



DOVER DOWN LOWER SCHOOL

NEWS



OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a fantastic half term with lots of exciting learning! Year 3 and 4 have been learning all out about Tudor times and the magnitude of Henry VIII, whilst Year 1 and 2 have had a space adventure learning through their exciting topic. Reception children have all settled in well and have enjoyed their learning through 'My World of Colour' with Elmer the elephant.

All classes have had lots of outdoor learning and so the classroom arrangements have not compromised their well-being. However, we have reviewed the seating for Year 1 and 2 and have decided that we will go back to tables and group work. Sitting in rows and forward facing is simply government guidance and in line with pupil's best interest's, we have tried it, and have concluded that it is not best suited to the younger children. In terms of the risk, we have assessed this as low as the children are in their class bubbles and as we know, find it very difficult to stay apart, particularly at playtime.

Many thanks to the PTA who provided plenty of spooktacular fun with the Spooky Spoons competition – they all look amazing, and judging 3 winners per class was near impossible! Well done to all children who took part – very creative! The Dover Apple and Pear juice has also gone down a treat and we are all super impressed with the skills in producing the juice from local grown fruit. All of the effort in the picking and production process is highly commendable – many thanks to everyone involved. It has proved to be a very worthwhile venture – raising much needed funds for the school! It tastes scrummy! A big thank you to all who have bought a bottle and also for allowing the children to purchase and create a Spooky Spoon. The PTA will announce the total raised so far very shortly.

It has certainly been a strange year – but we are extremely grateful to be back at school and I am very proud of the children who are all applying themselves and abiding by the restrictions. I think you will join me in saying a huge thank you to all of the staff for coming back to school at this difficult time, and putting the needs of the children first.

Wishing you all a very relaxing half term – enjoy the quality time with your children.

Mrs Debra Brewster

Our value for October 2020 is

RESPECT

Respect is thinking and acting in a positive way about yourself or others.

Respect is thinking and acting in a way that shows others you care about their feelings and their well-being.

School Captains – 2020-2021



OWLS

Jackson Carlo

Alice Hobday



WOODPECKERS

Jack Cripps

Frankie Farrell

Avalie Leonard



JAYS

Riley Marriott

Henni Powell

Staff News

We are delighted to confirm that Mrs Turney, Deputy Pre-School Leader will be staying at Doverly Acorns.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Rinthang (Sang) in November. Sang has worked at the school for over 5 years as Cleaner and Catering Assistant and she has maintained the standard of cleanliness at a very high level. We will certainly miss her and wish her all the best as she moves permanently back to Thailand to be with her family.

PTA UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the PTA I would like to welcome all of the Doverly Down community back to the school. Our activities were curtailed at the end last year (along with everything else) but we are working with the restrictions and planning as much socially distanced fund raising and activities as possible.

Following the Doverly Down PTA AGM we have some changes to members of the committee. Rachael Leonard and Rosalynn Haynes have stepped down as Secretary and Treasurer. We are extremely grateful for the contribution Rachael and Rosalynn have made to both fundraising and running events.

We would like to welcome Anna Ivanova to the committee and thank her for taking on the role of secretary. Adeline Tsang has taken over as treasurer, you can see the committee membership below.

Name	Role
Tim Machin	Chair
Adeline Tsang	Treasurer
Anna Natskova	Secretary
Lorna Neale	Committee Member
Agnieszka Young	Vice Chair
Katie Mitchell	Events Lead



The spooky spoons were an incredible success and should make judging difficult for Mrs. Brewster. Our thanks to the children who took part and for everyone that helped.

As you are aware the PTA with some little helpers have been gathering spare apples and pears over the past few weeks to sell as juice. We eventually managed over 250 bottles! It is delicious and all proceeds go to the school via the PTA. Sales will be announced via email and text message. We can now take cash, card and cheque payments.

I am sure you understand that it is going to be difficult to host large events this year. To that end we are planning to work with the school to add some extra sparkle to the children's Christmas parties that will be held in their class bubbles this year. Details to follow soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tim Machin

PTA Chair

Health and Safety Inspection - carried out on Friday 16th October 2020

We had a successful Health & Safety Inspection by the Health and Safety Executive Team from HMS last Friday. They stated that we have a very robust risk assessment in place for ensuring that the school is as COVID secure as possible. They also said that we have implemented a system in classes, at playtimes and lunchtimes and for coming into and leaving school, which is safe and avoids too much contact and crossing of bubbles. All areas of the risk assessment were discussed and they stated that it was logical and had a common sense approach. They carried out a complete site inspection and had no concerns.

Thank you all for your support.

GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Since the start of the autumn term, we have had our first full governing board meeting and our governor's skills audit has been updated to ensure that vacant co-opted/Community Governor posts can be filled with the appropriately skilled person/s.

I attended the virtual National Governance Association East of England regional conference, it was very interesting to hear directly from policymakers and to meet and talk to a number of governors from different schools across the East of England.

It is genuinely pleasing to see first-hand all the children enjoying themselves in school, the environment created by all the staff is a positive one and is a credit to all involved.

As the school year progresses, the Governors' intent is to concentrate on delivering the school's priorities and what we will be focusing on as a whole school is ensuring that your children get the best possible experience this year, to recover missed learning and to get ready for their next steps.

Best wishes,

Ian

Ian Haynes

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Board



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We will be collecting filled shoeboxes again this year for this worthy cause.
In 2019 Operation Christmas Child delivered over 10.5 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 100 countries

Flyers have gone home in book bags this week.

Please bring your completed shoeboxes to the school office
by Thursday 5th November 2020.
Thank you.

Flu Vaccinations – Friday 6th November 2020

We recently emailed a letter out to parents/carers regarding flu immunisations for all year groups. This year consent forms must be completed on-line and the school code is: 109516. Please insert this code into the required field to correctly identify your child's school.

Please complete the consent form (one for each child) by **Thursday 29th October 2020** to ensure your child receives their vaccination. Please contact your immunisation team on 01234 310408 if you would like any help with the form. The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose. Thank you for your support.



**Reminder: Wear it Pink Day is now on
Thursday 12th November 2020**

Application for a school place for 2021

Transfer to Middle School 2021 –
Closing date: Friday 15th January 2021

Starting School 2021
Closing date: Friday 15th January 2021
A virtual tour of the school is on the front page of the
Dover Down website – please do take a look!

A reminder about Healthy Snacks and food brought into school from home

Please can you check the ingredients of food that comes into school to make sure that there are no nuts or nut ingredients or hummus/chickpeas in items included in lunch boxes or playtime snacks. This also includes pesto containing pine nuts.

We have some children and staff with allergies and make this request to ensure the safety of those children and staff.

If we do notice children with these products then we will, unfortunately, have to send the items back home.

Thank you for your support.

Healthy School-Healthy Snack!

National Awareness of Health and Wellbeing

Quick bite ideas! Snack time- for between meals.

Here are some quick ideas about what children may choose to bring in as a snack.

- Ⓢ Different types of bread, such as bagel, malt loaf, tea cake, hot cross bun, cheese-topped rolls etc. with or without butter
- Ⓢ Pitta, vegetable sticks such as carrot, cucumber, pepper or celery
- Ⓢ Slices of avocado or other vegetables
- Ⓢ Fresh, tinned fruit, in juice or dried fruit e.g. as fruit kebabs or sliced on a fruit platter
- Ⓢ Plain yoghurt with fruit i.e. fresh, tinned or stewed
- Ⓢ Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas, dates, figs etc.
- Ⓢ Popcorn (unsalted and unsweetened)
- Ⓢ Cheese cubes or kebabs
- Ⓢ Homemade flapjack (no nuts)
- Ⓢ Smoothies
- Ⓢ Frubes or pots of yogurts

Foods not meeting the standards

- Ⓢ Nut based snacks
- Ⓢ Nutella
- Ⓢ Hummus
- Ⓢ Chocolate based snacks
- Ⓢ Crisps and crisp-like products, tortilla chips, crackers, Bombay mix etc.
- Ⓢ Fruit winders
- Ⓢ Cakes, pastries incl. croissants, pies
- Ⓢ Biscuits (both sweet and savoury types)
- Ⓢ Any type of confectionery

**Please remember -
We are a nut free
school!**

**Also: No hummus,
chickpeas or pine
nuts please**



Spaces Available

We provide a fun and safe environment within the school for your child/ren to attend and be cared for until you pick them up. There are lots of exciting activities on offer, along with an opportunity for them to relax and unwind after a day in the classroom.

At present we are running Stay and Play from when school finishes up to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, just for Doverly Down pupils.

For further information and/or to book your child/ren in please contact Andrea or Jackie on 07517 752979.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Opportunities to work at Doverly Down

Vacancy for Catering Assistant in the school kitchen (Fixed term contract initially)

3 hours p/day – 15 hours per week - 10.15am – 1.15pm, Mon – Fri, term time only

Duties will be varied including serving children at lunchtime, basic food preparation and clearing and washing up.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a basic on-line Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety for Catering course.

Vacancy for Cleaner (Fixed term contract initially)

2 hours p/day – 10 hours per week – 6.30am – 8.30am, Mon - Fri

If you are interested in applying for these positions please contact Debra Brewster, Headteacher either by telephone or school email for more details.

An enhanced DBS certificate and references will be required on appointment for both positions.

Latest advice regarding Coronavirus:

Check if you or your child has Coronavirus symptoms

If you or have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

Urgent advice: Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you're worried about your symptoms
- you're not sure what to do

Call 111 if you cannot get help online. Do not go to places like a GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy.

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

Safeguarding

If your child is being collected by another adult you must inform his/her class teacher or telephone the school before the end of the school day and give the person's name and, where applicable, relationship to the child being collected. We cannot release children unless we have parent/carer permission. This includes school activities/trips picking up and dropping off.

If you have a regular arrangement for another adult to collect your child please send an email into school with the details.

Please can you also ensure that your children are supervised as they leave school.

The School Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website or from the school office.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Reporting absence

If your child is unable to come to school please contact the school via telephone or email by 9.15 am on the first day of absence. For safeguarding reasons this initial contact should come via the parent/carer rather than a childminder or friend, unless in exceptional circumstances.

If there has been no communication the school office will send a text to parents/carers after registers have closed asking the parent to contact the school within the next 30 minutes to confirm the reason for the absence.

If there is no response to the text after 30 minutes the office will telephone the primary contact first and then other contacts in order (using details held on the student update sheets).

Please keep the school informed of any on-going absence. Thank you for your help.

DINNER MONEY



Year 3 and Year 4: £2.00 daily and £10.00 weekly



Please pay on the day or in advance for all meals – payment can be made on-line via SchoolMoney.

Please check your SchoolMoney account regularly – any accounts with an outstanding balance of over £20 will receive a letter from the Headteacher.

If you are paying by cash please can you ensure the money is sent in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's name via the school office. Thank you.



Dates for the diary



2020 Dates for the diary

Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	Half term week
Monday 2 nd November 2020	Return to school (this is NOT an Inset Day)
Friday 6 th November 2020	Flu vaccinations for all year groups – letters have been emailed to parents/carers. Consent forms must be completed on-line by Thursday 29th October
Commencing 9 th November 2020 – please refer to class letter for relevant dates	Parent/Carer/Child Consultations by telephone – letters have been emailed out.
Thursday 12 th November 2020 (change of date)	Wear it Pink Day – non-uniform day – letters have gone home
Monday 16 th – Sunday 22 nd November	Road Safety Week
Friday 18 th December 2020	Last day of Autumn Term SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1.00PM Children to be collected at this time.

2021 Dates for the diary

Monday 4 th January 2021	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	Start of Spring Term 2021
Friday 15th January 2021	Closing date for Transfer to Middle School and Starting School 2020 Applications. Please apply direct to School Admissions at Central Bedfordshire Council.
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February 2021	Half Term week
Friday 26 th March 2021	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 12 th April 2021	Inset Day
Tuesday 13 th April 2021	First day of Summer Term
Monday 3 rd May 2021	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term week including Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 7 th June 2021	Inset Day
Thursday 22 nd July 2021	End of Summer Term