



DOVER DOWN LOWER SCHOOL

NEWS



NOVEMBER 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas is coming!

The rehearsals have begun for Christmas performances, which will soon be upon us. There are lots of exciting events before we reach the end of term: Magic Dave, parties, Christmas dinner and of course the productions which we are all looking forward to.

Thank you for all of your support in purchasing poppies and supporting the British Legion. Children in Need helped children to realise the importance of helping children with greater needs and how we, as a school, fund raise to support this.

Thank you for the many positive responses to the children's questionnaires. We have had a large number returned and will publish the results soon, on the school web site.

End of term reports will be with you at the end of the final week of term and I am sure you will be pleased with your child's progress so far this year. It is still early days and I expect many will still be emerging within the end of year objectives, please remember that more rapid progress is generally seen within the spring term. It is always exciting to see the incredible progress that all of our children make!

Mrs Brewster

Our value for November 2019 is

PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is not giving up. It is persistence, the effort required to do something and keep doing it, even if it's hard.

“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.” (Confucius)

Synonyms: persistence, tenacity, determination, resolve, grit, staying power.

Rewards for

October – RESPECT – on our Island of Values

Reception: Kaiser Abdi-Stephens, Isabella Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Rudy Sesay.

Year 1: Freddy Axe, Bobbee Carlo, Charlie Gilbert, Bradyn Magee, Joey Marriott, Arya Roberts.

Year 2: Ava-Rose Barry, Jake Bromley, Jake Duncalf, Grace Ellaway, Maddie Ellaway, Amelia Grimshaw.

Year 3: Jack Cripps, William Emerton, Lara Holme, Bella Johnson, Oliver Neale, Henni Powell.

Year 4: Hannah Barratt, Grace Cawdell, Jacob Crutchfield, Henry king, Tommy Phillips, Sophia Wheeler.

Staff News

We say goodbye to Mrs Sweetman, Stay & Play Assistant this month and wish her all the very best for the future.

Sports News

Tag Rugby – Thursday 31st October

A group of Year 3 and 4 children recently participated in the tag rugby festival held at Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club. They had a great time and performed extremely well, demonstrating lovely teamwork, determination and some good individual rugby skills too.

We were very proud that the other participating schools selected Doverly Down as the team which showed the best self-belief during the event.

Thank you to all the parents for arranging transportation and for coming along to support.



Sports Hall Athletics – Thursday 7th November

A group of Year 4 children recently took part in the indoor athletics competition held at Cedars Upper School. They competed in several relay races and various field events such as the standing long jump, chest pushing a 1kg ball, 6 strides and the very tiring timed skipping and speed bounce.

The children had a fantastic time and Mr Squires was delighted with their effort, perseverance and particularly the support and encouragement they gave to each other.

Doverly Down finished a very creditable sixth place out of eighteen schools. Thank you to all the parents for arranging transportation.



Safeguarding and Reporting Absence - Revised Procedure

With immediate effect this is our revised procedure:

If your child is unable to attend school you must contact the school by telephone or email before 9am on the 1st day of absence and keep the school updated if the absence continues.

If a child is absent and there has been no communication, the school office will send a text to parents/carers after registers have closed asking the parent/carer to ring 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 then the office will telephone the primary contact first and then other contacts in order (using details held on the student update sheets).

Flu Vaccinations – Monday 16th December

Letters and consent forms have gone home. These forms must be back in school no later than Monday 2nd December.

Please note that children are unable to be vaccinated at the planned school session if consent forms are not returned by this date.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER



To help our Catering Manager plan for this special dinner please return the reply slip from the letter that was recently sent out to parents/carers by Monday 25th November. The cost of the dinner is £2 but Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are free (and if your child is entitled to FSM).

Please pay in advance via SchoolMoney or by cash in a sealed envelope with your child's name and 'Christmas Dinner' on the envelope. Thank you.

PTA UPDATE

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My Name is Tim Machin Father to Megumi (Year 1) and Kohei (Acorns).

I recently took over from Mandy Ellis as chair of the PTA. The primary functions of the PTA are to enhance the school community, advance the education of student and raise funds for the school as a registered charity. In recent years, the PTA has been immensely effective in all these areas and I would like to thank Mandy for all her efforts in making the PTA a success.

We have 7 members of the main PTA and parents reps for each year except year 2. If any year 2 parents would like to be a rep please contact a member of the PTA, you can find the details at the page below.

<http://www.doverdown.beds.sch.uk/pta>

December is a busy and exciting month for the children, school and the PTA. The Christmas Fayre will be held on the 7th December and preparations are well underway. To make the event a success we need your help. We will be asking for your contributions over the next few weeks including prizes for Rainbola, Chocobola and cakes. The children love the event and all proceeds go to the school so we appreciate your help in making it a success. Volunteers for the setup before, running on the day and clear up please let your class rep or a member of the PTA know you are available.

In addition to the Christmas fayre, the PTA will be selling refreshments and photos at the school's Christmas productions and we will be running the Christmas decoration competition again.

Finally, before you start your online Christmas shopping please consider signing up to Easy Fundraising. It is completely free, and generates money for the school when you shop online.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/doverdownpa>

Thank you for your continued support.

Tim Machin
PTA Chair

Charity

We have been very busy this month, raising money for charity.

Thank you to all the parents/carers and children who have supported these charities.

Everyone looked fabulous in pink and red on Friday 18th October for 'Wear it Pink' day. We raised an amazing £171.29 for the Breast Cancer Now charity. Thank you to all who donated!!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who filled a Shoebox for this appeal.



Poppy Appeal



**Thank you very much for helping with this Appeal.
We collected over £63.**



CHILDREN IN NEED

We raised a brilliant £201.28 for Children in Need through donations and the cake sale on Friday 15th November. Thank you to everyone who contributed – it was lovely to see the children in all their spotty/bright colours and Superhero outfits. Thank you for all the lovely cake donations; the children enjoyed choosing their cake.



Message from Starlight Charity:



"We would like to thank all at Doverly Down Lower School so much for your kind donation of £10 which we have recently received for your textile recycling collection in during October 2019. This now brings your total to a fantastic £255. Your kind gift means that more children will get the opportunity to have fun and feel normal, whilst also giving them some precious respite from their daily hospital routine. From all of us here at Starlight, thank you."

The blue Starlight textile recycling bin is located in our car parking area.

GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As a school, we are always seeking to continue growing and developing and to reflect where and how we can improve. Consequently, now is a great time to draw your attention to the School's Development priorities for 2019/20.

The School Development priorities for 2019-20 are:

1. Promote high outcomes at the end of KS1, so that pupils are on track to be in line with ability and those of HA can achieve at Greater Depth in writing and maths. Those on the cusp of expected are given greater support to accelerate progress towards the expected level.
2. Promote high outcomes in the EYFS to bring the APS and the GLD at least in line with the National Average or above.
3. Develop strategic approaches to the deployment of TAs so that target groups of pupils, particularly those with SEND, make strong progress from their baselines.

The School has many important strengths and these priorities will raise the overall effectiveness much higher. Members of the Governing Board are currently preparing for our first Curriculum & Pastoral Committee and Management & Resources Committee of the school year.

The governors welcome comments about what we do and what we could be doing better. If you would like to contact us, please do so through the school office.

Best wishes,

Ian Haynes
Chair of Governors

Application for a school place for 2020

Transfer to Middle School 2020 -
Closing date: Wednesday 15th January 2020

Starting School 2020
Closing date: Wednesday 15th January 2020

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. 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 put this in writing to the class teacher.

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.

Sickness and diarrhoea

Please could we remind you that the school policy is to keep children away from school for a full 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting so that when they return they are clear and no longer contagious.

Reporting absence

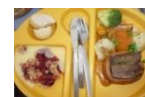
If your child is unable to come to school please contact the school via telephone or email by 9am on the first day of absence. For safeguarding reasons this initial contact should come via the parent/carer rather than a childminder or friend, unless in exceptional circumstances.

Thank you.

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.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website is updated regularly with information, letters, newsletters and photographs of activities and events happening in school. Additions/updates: new photos, menu, SEND page.

Please do take time to have a look.

Doverly Down Lower School 01525 377233

www.doverlydown.beds.sch.uk



Dates for the diary



2019 Dates for the diary	
Monday 2nd December	1.45pm Year R, 1 & 2 Winter Production - A Snowman at Sunset (Parents/Carers with surnames A-K welcome to watch)
Tuesday 3rd December	Y3 Sing On Sing Out Cluster Concert at Southcott Lower School (letters have gone home) 1.45pm Year R, 1 & 2 Winter Production - A Snowman at Sunset (Parents/Carers with surnames L – Z welcome to watch)
Wednesday 4th December	1.45pm Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Production - Nativity Rock! - Y3 & Y4 parents/carers welcome to watch
Saturday 7th December	PTA Christmas Fayre 11am – 1pm. All welcome!
Monday 9th December	KS1 and Reception Christmas Party (more details to follow)
Tuesday 10th December	The Choir singing at Swiss Cottage and The Knolls Care Homes (letters have gone home)
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Dinner for whole school – letters have gone home
Thursday 12th December	SCHOOL CLOSED DUE TO GENERAL ELECTION
Friday 13th December	Y4 Carol Concert – All Saints Church (letters have gone home) 2.30pm Rocksteady Concert for parents/carers of Rocksteady children only
Monday 16th December	KS2 Christmas Party (more details to follow) Flu Vaccinations (all year groups) – letters and consent forms have gone home). Forms to be returned by Monday 2nd December please
Tuesday 17th December	9.15am Christmas Assembly with Revd. Noel – all welcome
Friday 20th December 2019	Last day of Autumn Term

2020 Dates for the diary	
Friday 3 rd January 2020	Inset Day
Monday 6th January 2020	First day of Spring Term 2020
Monday 13 January 2020	Y4 Swimming starts for 10 weeks (letters to follow)
Wednesday 15th January 2020	Closing date for Transfer to Middle School and Starting School 2020 Applications. Please apply direct to School Admissions at Central Bedfordshire Council.
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February 2020	Half term week
Monday 24th February 2020	Return to school after half term
Friday 3rd April 2020	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 20th April 2020	Inset Day
Tuesday 21st April 2020	First day of Summer Term 2020
Monday 27th April 2020	Y3 Swimming starts for 10 weeks (letters to follow)
Monday 27th – Wednesday 29th April 2020	Year 4 Residential trip to Rock UK, near Wellingborough (letters have gone home)
Thursday 7th May	SCHOOL CLOSED - Polling Day Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Friday 8th May 2020	Early May Day Bank Holiday (changed for VE Day Anniversary)
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2020	Half term week including Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 1st June 2020	Inset Day
Tuesday 2nd June 2020	Return to school
Friday 17th July 2020	Last day of Summer Term