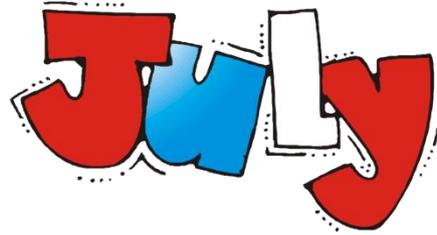




DOVERY DOWN LOWER SCHOOL

NEWS



JULY 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of year has arrived – the summer holidays fast approach! I hope you have lots planned to enjoy some special times with your children. In this final week we have plenty to keep them entertained: from the KS1 trip, the leavers assembly and the year 4 buffet! Oh, and yes the children are still working – they will be ready to unwind and switch off for a while by the last day, for sure! Reports are extremely positive and I am sure you have all been very proud of your children's successes!

We will be saying Goodbye and Good Luck to our Year 4s this week and wish them the very best in their new schools and in the next phase of their journey!

Once again the DDFC had a very eventful tournament– many thanks to all of the children who took part and played well, and to all of the coaches for their commitment and organisation over this year – albeit not on the Dover field! Trophies are being presented this week at the school.

We are very proud of the high achievement of our children at Dover Down. This year is once again extremely positive: Year 1 were high in the National Phonics testing with 89% reaching the expected level; above the National average. The reception children have worked very hard with a lot more children achieving at the exceeding level in reading, writing and maths. Year 2 results demonstrate good and outstanding progress from their reception baselines particularly in reading. Whilst the Year 4 results demonstrate excellence in all areas: 91% of children achieved the expected level and above; significantly above the Local Average. Year 1 and Year 3 once again exceeded their predicted targets. Highlights taken from the LA School Improvement report:

'Monitoring shows that the quality of teaching within the school is consistently good and better.'

'Pupils demonstrate high standards and make positive progress as a result of the high expectations of staff.'

'Staff model expectations consistently, both in terms of academic standards and of behaviour. The impact of this is evident from books and from tracking data.'

I wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing all of the children back at school on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Mrs Brewster

Our value for July is

KINDNESS

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted” – *Aesop*

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” – *Henry James*

Rewards for

June – Friendship – on our Values Treasure Island

Reception: Jaylen Breeden, Oliver Davies, Jamie Mitchell, Caelan Vines.

Year 1: Ava-Rose Barry, Kaydin Clay, Maddie Ellaway, Nico Giugno, Zac Lee, Freddie Reynolds, Harry Saunders, Sophia Snee, Elias Waters, Monty Wisdom.

Year 2: Jacob Carter, Daisy Christopher, William Emerton, Lillith Ferguson-Moore, Lara Holme, Amrit Lidder, Riley Marriott, Lyra Sands.

Year 3: Eva Dowling, Harry Reynolds, James Senior, Oliver Johnson, Rosie Martin.

Year 4: Saul Dover, Erik Farmer, Eli Dale, Inara Waters, Tommy Axe, Nathan Voo.

Staff News

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Tidmarsh, Teaching Assistant, at the end of term and thank her for all her energy and enthusiasm over the past 3½ years. We wish her all the very best for the future.

YEAR 4 LEAVER'S ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY 19TH JULY

Starts at 1.30pm for Y4 Parents/Carers only

School will be finishing early at 2.45pm and all children from all classes may be collected at this time.

Sports News

Orienteering – Tuesday 2nd July – Brooklands School

Eight children from Year 4 had a brilliant afternoon at Brooklands School where 18 lower schools took part. Two teams of 2 boys and 2 girls each had a go at both orienteering and team building activities. The orienteering was particularly challenging as each team had to use their map reading skills to locate different flags placed around the playing field and then all four team members had to hold onto a rope to work together to find the flags. Our teams came 2nd and 6th, a great achievement.



Kwik Cricket Festival – Tuesday 9th July

A group of Year 3 pupils represented Doverly Down at the Kwik Cricket festival held at Leighton Buzzard Cricket Club. This was our last sporting event of the school year and Mr Squires reports that they performed magnificently, winning 4 of their 5 group matches. They had a thoroughly enjoyable day and Mr Squires was particularly proud of their fantastic friendship and teamwork.





Gardening Club Thank you



Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Ratore would like to thank everyone for their support of Gardening club this year and hope that the Year 4 leavers continue to enjoy their gardening!

Reach for the stars at the library this summer



Representatives from Leighton Buzzard Library came in for an Assembly on Friday 12th July to explain about the Summer Reading Challenge, that takes place every year during the summer holidays. You can sign up at your local library, then read six library books of your choice to complete the Challenge. There are rewards to collect along the way, and it's FREE to take part! In Central Bedfordshire, the challenge begins on 20 July and there are activities to join in at the libraries. After completing the basic 6 book challenge, children are encouraged to continue reading and there is a family theatre ticket prize for Leighton Buzzard theatre for the child who reads the most books.

The Summer Reading Challenge website helps you keep track of your reading all year round: find new books to read, take part in competitions and mini challenges, and play games.

For Further information: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge

SchoolMoney

As we are very near the end of the school year please can parents/carers check SchoolMoney and clear any monies owing by the end of term – this includes dinner money and trips/activities.

Thank you for your help.

PTA Update

As we come to the end of another school year and the end of my tenure as Chair of the PTA, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me over the last 2 years – everyone who has served on the committee over both years, all those who have volunteered to help at events, Mrs Brewster and all the staff (especially the office staff who are all brilliant!), and everyone who has attended or donated towards an event. The PTA is a massive group effort, which doesn't work without every one of you doing your bit, so thank you all.

As a result of our efforts this year, the PTA has raised almost **£6,000**.

As well as our normal activities providing Christmas gifts and Easter eggs for all the children and donating towards the Year 4 leaving celebrations, this has enabled us to buy some new supplies for the gardening club and to make a **donation of £4,000** towards the all weather sports pitch. The new sports pitch will be installed during the summer holidays, and will provide the children with a marked out area that can be used for play and for PE lessons all year round (whatever the weather!!). This fantastic artificial surface is virtually maintenance free and will be a great addition to the school's facilities.

Please don't forget the **PTA AGM on Tuesday 17th September at 8pm**. Everyone is welcome, and we will be electing new committee members. If you are interested in joining the committee or just want to find out a bit more about what it involves, please contact me or one of the other committee members. All our names and photos are on the PTA noticeboard on the playground.

It just remains for me to wish you all a wonderful summer! For those of you returning in September, we'll see you then. To all the Year 4's, best of luck in your new schools. We will miss you at our events next year.

Mandy
Chair of the PTA



Wish List for Library



We have an excellent range of fiction books but would like to add to our non-fiction section. If you are having a clear out over the summer holidays we would be grateful for donations of good quality non-fiction books, suitable for children aged 4 – 9, when we return to school in September.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

The current Governing Body is:

Mr I Haynes	- Chair of Governors
Mr S Barnard	- Vice Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor
Mrs S Miljevic	- Clerk to the Governing Body

Mrs D Brewster	Miss C Harrison
Mrs R Blessing	Mr I Barratt
Mrs Z Curlett-Crook	
Mrs M Hickmott	

We welcome your comments, thoughts, and suggestions about the school. Thank you.

Ian Haynes
Chair of Governors

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.

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.

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.

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	
Tuesday 16 th July	Y4 Leavers Buffet & Fun Evening - 5.30 – 7.30pm
Wednesday 17 th July	9.15am Assembly with Revd. Noel – all welcome
Friday 19 th July 2019	Last day of Summer Term 1.30pm Y4 Leaver's Assembly for Y4 parents/carers only Whole school finishes at 2.45pm.
Monday 22 nd July 2019	Inset Day
Monday 2 nd & Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Inset Days
Wednesday 4th September 2019	First day of Autumn Term
Tuesday 17th September 2019	Tempest Photography individual school photos PTA AGM (more details to follow)
Monday 21 st October – Friday 25 th October 2019	Half term
Monday 28 th October 2019	Return to school (this is NOT an Inset Day)
Monday 16th December 2019	Flu Vaccinations (all year groups)
Friday 20 th December 2019	Last day of Autumn Term
Friday 3 rd January 2020	Inset Day
Monday 6 th January 2020	First day of Spring Term 2020
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
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

