



## *DOVER DOWN LOWER SCHOOL*

### *NEWS*



2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Time has flown since the start of the Spring term – with so much going on at school. I am very proud of all of our children, who are demonstrating fantastic commitment to their learning, and have made great progress this year. The Year 4's who took part in the recent Gymnastics competition were amazing and all performed like top gymnasts – well done to you all – you are Dover Superstars!

Our recent Number Day was very enjoyable with all children having fun with numbers and applying their maths knowledge! Thank you for your continued support - the children looked great in their 'Number white shirts', and for supporting tomorrow's Australia Day - more on this in our next newsletter and on the web site!

Once again thank you to the PTA for organising the Spring Disco. Your continued contributions really do make a difference - both in terms of helping the school to update equipment (such as our new LCD screens) and in bringing our school community together.

Wishing you all a relaxed and enjoyable half term.

Mrs Brewster

**Our value for February 2020 is**

***Love***

Noun: “a person or thing that one loves, a great interest and pleasure in something, an intense feeling of deep affection.”

**Year 4's Values Assembly about Love was held earlier today (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February). Thank you to all parents/carers of Y4 children who supported this assembly.**

**Rewards for**

**January – *Happiness* – on our Island of Values**

**Reception:** Callum Casey, Aoife Walmsley.

**Year 1:** Aaron Carpenter, Sebastian Darley, Scarlett McCready, Arya Roberts, Tilda Stovell, Zofia Young.

**Year 2:** Kaydin Clay, Jack Horne, Lois Hutchings.

**Year 3:** Frankie Farrell, Joseph Mockett, Valentina Schettino, Evie Webb.

**Year 4:** Rosie Martin, Kwame Morrison, Dylan Rye, James Senior, Grace Taylor, Lucas Tew.

**Y4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO ROCK UK  
MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> to WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

**The Y4 children are really looking forward to their residential trip to Rock UK in April.**

**On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 3.30pm there will be a presentation by Rock UK to Year 4 parents/carers and children. We look forward to seeing you there!**

# Sports News

## Gymnastics at Harlequins Gym – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

A group of Year 4 pupils recently took part in the Lower Schools Gymnastics Competition at Harlequin Gym. The children performed a set floor routine and a vault in front of a Harlequins judge. Competition was fierce and Doverly Down finished a very creditable 13th out of 18 schools overall. Well done to all those who took part.

The children also had the opportunity to try out a variety of other gymnastic disciplines, including the beam, horizontal bars and tumbling. It was extremely pleasing to see everyone enjoying themselves and experiencing new challenges.



### Coats and Water Bottles



**Colder days are here! All children should be bringing named coats into school so they can enjoy outside playtimes and lunchtimes in comfort. Hats, scarves and gloves should also be named. Children should also have a named water bottle in school every day – we are still seeing lots of water bottles without names. Thank you.**

## **NSPCC Number Day – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

***We had a super day at Dovery with all the children joining in maths-based learning throughout the day – lots of counting, maths games, maths problems and, above all, lots of fun! The children all wore T-shirts with their chosen number on. Thank you to parents for supporting this day. To date, we have raised £68.58 for NSPCC.***



***More photos of Number Day are on the front page of our website.***



## ***Dovery Down World Book Day Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020***



We are holding our World Book Day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March when the children will be enjoying book-related activities and having fun. It would make the day extra special if your child can come into school dressed up as a character from a book. Staff will be joining in too!

Thank you for your support.



## **PTA UPDATE**

Dear All,

First of all, well done to all the children for their work on the Mother's Day gifts. The presents have been very popular so we hope there will be lots of happy mums and we raised some money for the school too.

A big thank you for all those parents and teachers helping at the disco. I am writing this on the day of the disco so hopefully everything will go according to plan! I know the children are very excited.

We have lots of things coming up in the near future so here's a sneak preview:

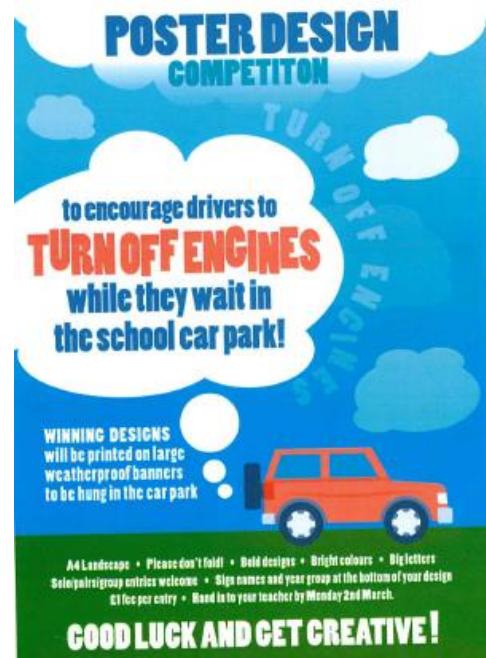
The PTA is running a poster competition to encourage parents to switch off their engines in the carpark. Winning designs will be printed on huge weather proof posters in the car park. Flyers coming home this week (see below) and also on the website.

We are also organising a talk from our very own arctic adventurer Amelia Darley. Amelia was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> woman to walk to the North Pole! And we are inviting parents and children to attend a talk on her journey so we hope you will join us on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March to hear all about it. PTA will be providing refreshments. More details to follow.

After that we expect the Easter bunny to appear at the end of term and we have a provisional date for the Summer Fayre of 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Tim Machin  
Doverly Down PTA Chair



## **GOVERNOR'S UPDATE**

On behalf of the Governing Board, we wish all children and staff a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

I'm delighted to announce that we have a new parent governor who has joined the board; Pete Roberts brings excellent experience and skills to the role. The governing board is going from strength to strength and we have some interviews lined up for our two vacant Co-opted Governor roles with some excellent candidates in the near future.

Our most recent full governing board meeting was very enjoyable and it is pleasing to see that members of the governing board are embracing the training provided by CBC, with members of the governing board undertaking face to face training with other local governing boards.

Our next meeting is our Management and Resources Committee in early March. Getting in Touch – 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. Members of the Governing Board are currently preparing for our first Full Governing Board meeting of the calendar year.

Best Wishes,

Ian Haynes  
Chair of Governors



## **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

The school website is updated regularly with information, letters, newsletters and photographs of activities and events happening in school. Additions/updates: Vision and Values, Doverly Down School Results (July 2019), Number Day 2020.

Please do take time to have a look.

## **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.

## **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.

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.

## **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.

## **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 13 January 2020	Y4 Swimming starts for 10 weeks (letters have gone home)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Spring Disco – flyers have gone home
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Australia Enrichment Day – NON-UNIFORM DAY - whole school (letter has gone home)</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half term week
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Return to school after half term
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Closing Date for PTA Poster Design Competition (flyers have gone home)</b>  Parent Consultation evening 3.45pm – 6pm (letters have gone home)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parent Consultation evening 3.45pm – 7pm (letters have gone home)
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Class Photos including Pre-School</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Doverly Down World Book Day – Non-uniform (more details to follow)</b>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30pm Rocksteady Concert for parents/carers of Rocksteady children only
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Assembly with Revd. Noel McGeeney. All welcome to attend.
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>9.30am - Grandparents Spring Concert – refreshments will be available (details have gone home)</b>  <b>3.30pm - Y4 Parents/Carers invited with their child to a presentation from Rock UK</b>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Inset Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	First day of Summer Term 2020
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Y3 Swimming starts for 10 weeks (letters to follow)</b>
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Residential trip to Rock UK, near Wellingborough (letters have gone home)

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	SCHOOL CLOSED - Polling Day Bedfordshire -Police & Crime Commissioner
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Early May Day Bank Holiday (changed for VE Day Anniversary)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week including Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Inset Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Return to school
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Reception Class visit to Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum (details to follow)</b> <b>Y4 Visit to Hazard Alley Safety Centre (more details to follow)</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Sing Out Play Out Concert – Grove Theatre, Dunstable for Y3 only (further details to follow)</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Summer Term
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Inset Days
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Start of Autumn Term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Half term week
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	Return to school (this is NOT an Inset Day)
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>	<b>Whole School to see Jack and the Beanstalk Panto at Milton Keynes Theatre matinee performance at 1.00pm</b>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>	Last day of Autumn Term <b>SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1.00PM</b> Children to be collected from the playground at this time.
<b>2021 Dates for the diary</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Start of Spring Term 2021</b>