



DOVER DOWN LOWER SCHOOL

NEWS



OCTOBER 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a great half term with lots of exciting work in classes. The children are enjoying their topics and I am seeing a great number of them for their times tables – well done to all of those who have earned their certificates!

A huge thank you to the PTA for the Halloween Spooktacular Disco. This was fangtastic and enjoyed by all! Incredible costumes with plenty of gore!

We are sending Mrs Thompson our best wishes as she recovers from surgery after a minor accident at home. The kitchen has been superbly managed by Sang and her team – many thanks for the wonderful dinners.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very relaxing half term.

Mrs Brewster

Our value for October 2019 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.

Year 3's Value Assembly about Respect will be held on Friday 1st November at 9.15am – all parents/carers of Year 3 children welcome to attend!

Rewards for

September – APPRECIATION – on our Island of Values

Reception: Morgan Duffy, Clara Edwards.

Year 1: Rudy Ferguson-Moore, Lexi George, Campbell Ker, Megumi Machin, Elsie Reynolds, Cassius Sesay, Phoebe Taylor, Charlie Timmins.

Year 2: Cody Francis, Zac Lee, Francesca Peasland, Freddie Reynolds, Isabella Rodriguez, Lilia Sanchez-Amado, Sophia Snee, Teigen Stovell.

Year 3: Jacob Carter, Alice Hobday, Maycie Kehoe, Joseph Mockett, Sofia Taylor.

Year 4: Layla Clay, Eva Dowling, Freddie Duncalf, Amelie Farrell, Rio Giugno, Halle Sartin, Ryan Secker, Thalia Snee.

Harvest Assembly



Thank you to everyone who came along to our recent Assembly – we hope you enjoyed the wonderful singing - and for your kind donations to Leighton Linslade Homeless Service. £57.35 has been raised to date and will be passed on to the charity.

Sports News

Mr Squires reports on our recent sporting events:

Boys Football Festival – Thursday 26th September

Ten Year 3 and 4 boys recently participated in the Lower Schools Football Festival held at Leighton United FC, which was our first sporting activity of the term. They had a great time and performed very well, going unbeaten over 6 matches.

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

Thank you to all the parents for arranging transportation and for coming along to cheer the children on; particular thanks also to Mr Senior and Doverly Down FC for their support.



Run 4 Fun at Linslade Middle School – Tuesday 8th October

A group of Year 3 and 4 children recently took part in the Run4Fun event held at Linslade Middle School. They had an enjoyable time despite some changeable weather, taking part in various fun relay races and a challenging cross-country style race. We have yet to receive confirmation of final placings but it was lovely to see every child run with great perseverance. Thank you to all the parents for arranging transportation.



**PTA Extraordinary General Meeting
Tuesday 29th October 2019 at 8pm
School Hall**

As you will already be aware, the PTA held its AGM on 17th September. Unfortunately, at that meeting there were no candidates for the Chair position. As such, the PTA now needs to call an Extraordinary Meeting on **Tuesday 29th October** to try to elect a new Chair. If a new Chair is not elected, the PTA will have to be wound up.

The PTA is very important to the school - as well as organising lots of the fun events that take place during the school year, evidence of the fundraising activities the PTA undertakes can be seen all around the school. In recent years the PTA has funded in full, or made significant contributions towards the library, the cookery and nurture room, the outdoor story area, the gazebo on the field, and the computer room refurbishment.

If the PTA is wound up, this will mean no Christmas or Summer Fayres, school discos, Christmas or Easter gifts for the children, visits from the Easter Bunny or Father Christmas, or funded trips to the pantomime in the future. There will also be no further contributions to school projects that directly benefit the children.

The PTA is a registered charity, governed by its own constitution and the Charities Commission regulations. The Chair is responsible, together with the other committee members, for ensuring the PTA is operated in accordance with these rules. The Chair runs the PTA Committee and liaises with Mrs Brewster on a regular basis. The PTA is the central hub of fundraising for the school, and has raised many thousands of pounds for the school over the past few years.

If you would like to put yourself forward for the position of Chair of the PTA, please let one of us know. Nominations can be made any time prior to the commencement of the meeting.

If you would like to have your say please come along to the meeting. This is your only opportunity to vote – this has to be done in person at the meeting.

We would really encourage you to come along to the meeting to help ensure the future of your PTA. The support and help from parents and carers is what make the PTA a success.

Many thanks,

Mrs D Brewster
Headteacher

Miss M Ellis
Outgoing Chair of the PTA

Mr I Haynes
Chair of Governors



Gardening Club



Gardening club has resumed this term for Y3 & Y4 pupils. Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Ratore will be running the club on Wednesdays over lunchtime. Due to popular demand the group has been split in to week 1 and week 2.

If you would like to donate any bulbs or shrubs in preparation for the spring, we would be most grateful!

SchoolMoney

If you are having any problems logging into SchoolMoney please contact the school and we can check we have your correct details.

Alternatively, please access the school website where the following guides are available for your information and guidance:

- **Parent User Guide**
- **Parent Password Guide**
- **Parent Login Tips**

Recently a few parents have informed us that the system will not accept NEW payment cards. We have been advised that some banks block certain payments from new cards but if you contact your bank/building society they should be able to sort this for you.

Thank you



Guitar Lessons



Mr Finch has some spaces for guitar lessons.

Lessons are held during school time.

If you think this would be of interest to you for your child, please call Mr Finch on 07999 414979 or email Mr Finch on jfinch5@hotmail.com.

Thank you.

Parking area – Polite Reminder

When using our car park please can you be kind to the environment and refrain from keeping your car engine running whilst you are waiting – we have received a number of complaints regarding this in relation to fumes and pollution, and the toxicity of breathing this in.

Please also ensure that you do not block anybody else's car in. If the car park is full please find an alternative place to park.

Thank you for your co-operation.

'Nut Free' School

An important reminder to all parents/carers:

We are a Nut Free school. Please can you check the ingredients of food that comes into school to make sure that there are no nuts or nut ingredients in items included in lunch boxes or playtime snacks e.g. cereal bars. Also, products which state '**May contain nuts**' should not be sent into school.

We have some children and lunchtime staff with severe nut allergies and make this request to ensure the safety of those children and staff. This also applies to packed lunches taken on school trips.

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

Thank you for your support.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We will be collecting filled shoeboxes again this year for this worthy cause. Flyers will be sent home shortly. Please note there are new regulations this year and sweets and toothpaste can no longer be included in the shoeboxes.

Please bring your completed shoeboxes to the school office
no later than Friday 8th November 2019.



Thank you

GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Since the September governor's update, we have had our first full governing board meeting, where almost 20 school policies were reviewed and ratified, latest copies can be found on the school's website. A full governor's skills audit has been completed, to ensure that vacant co-opted/Community Governor posts can be filled with the appropriately skilled person/s.

Our Vice-Chair and I attended the National Governance Association East of England regional conference on Saturday 12th October, 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, the highlight of the conference was hearing about the new Ofsted inspection framework directly from one of the leading Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) Paul Brooker the HMI Regional Director, East of England.

Further to the letters sent out in the children's book bags, we currently have an opportunity for a parent to join our team - Are you interested in directly contributing towards the development of your child's education?

The role of the governor has steadily risen in responsibility over the last few years and is increasingly becoming more professional and accountable. This is not a small commitment, but I can assure you it is very rewarding, and will greatly enhance your understanding of the school and increase your involvement in the local community. Our challenges immediately ahead include a high proportion of governing body largely made up of new recruits.

The school is on a swift journey of improvement and governors need to have the capacity not merely to keep up, but to actively contribute to the strategic role within the leadership and management of the school. It can be a bit daunting initially, especially navigating through the acronyms and jargon, but there is a wealth of training and support available, and both my Vice-Chair and I would mentor you as a new governor for the first two years.

The most desirable aspect that you would bring to our team is a parent's/carer's perspective. Any experience would be doubly welcome but is not necessary. If any of that sparks your interest, we would be delighted to meet with you to have a chat and answer any questions you may have. Please let the school office know your availability and we will set up a date. All Governors must be willing to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) and two references will be required.

We genuinely look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Ian Haynes
Chair of Governors

Lost Property

We will no longer be having a Lost Property bin in the Quiet Area of the playground.

Any named items that are mislaid at school are returned to children as soon as possible.

At the end of each half-term any un-named clothing or unidentified water bottles or other items will be put out on a table in the playground. Anyone can take items from this table. Any leftover clothing/items will then be disposed of via recycling.

Please help us by ensuring that all clothing, footwear, PE kits, lunch boxes and water bottles are named.

Thank you.

Coats in school - Named please!!

Please can you ensure that your child brings an appropriate coat/waterproof jacket into school. Children will be enjoying outside play at break times, lunchtimes and during Forest Fun throughout the autumn and winter months and the weather will probably be mixed!

Spare Clothing required

We need some boy's underpants as spares – all ages 4–9 years.
Thank you!

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 as early as possible 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: Premier Sports After School Clubs, various photos, letters.

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	
Friday 18th October	Wear it Pink Day – NON-UNIFORM
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)
Tuesday 29th October	Extraordinary General Meeting of DDPTA - 8pm - School Hall. All welcome
Friday 1st November 2019	9.15am Y3 Values Assembly – Respect (Parents/carers of Y3 children most welcome)
Friday 15th November	9.15am Y2 Values Assembly – Perseverance (Parents/carers of Y2 children most welcome) POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 2020 – date TBC
Monday 2nd December	1.45pm Year R, 1 & 2 Christmas Production (Parents with surnames A-K welcome to watch)
Tuesday 3rd December	1.45pm Year R, 1 & 2 Christmas Production (Parents with surnames L – Z welcome to watch)
Wednesday 4th December	1.45pm Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Production. Y3 & Y4 parents welcome to watch
Tuesday 10th December	The Choir singing at Swiss Cottage and The Knolls Care Homes (letters to follow)
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Dinner for whole school
Thursday 12th December	YR/KS1 Christmas Party (more details to follow) Y4 Carol Concert – All Saints Church (letters to follow)
Friday 13th December	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 to follow
Tuesday 17th December	9.15am Christmas Assembly with Revd. Noel – all welcome
Friday 20 th December 2019	Last day of Autumn Term
2020 Dates for the diary	
Friday 3 rd January 2020	Inset Day

Monday 6 th 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