



DOVER DOWN LOWER SCHOOL

NEWS



May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to see the children learning well in all classes. The work in books demonstrates good progress and shows how hard they are working. Our recent review carried out by the Central Bedfordshire School Improvement team stated: 'Behaviour is excellent and pupils display very positive learning behaviours. They are committed to and enthusiastic about their learning and have long concentration spans.'

The Forest Fun sessions have been so exciting and the children have not only loved these but have learnt so many new skills. Year 4 look forward to their session next Tuesday. The camp fire and marshmallows were such a wonderful experience for all classes. So much so that we are planning to arrange some more sessions – thanks to the PTA!

Next Thursday the Year 4 children have their extravaganza Outdoor Adventure day at Rock UK – which I know they are all looking forward to.

Reception class are going to be 'beastatic' about their upcoming ZooLab visit, whilst Year 1 and 2 will be flying high with their amazing hot air balloons and kites, with more adventures to follow.

Year 3 and 4 will have the great pleasure of meeting a true Egyptian Queen – Cleopatra!

We look forward to an exciting half-term ahead.

Warmest wishes
Mrs Debra Brewster

Our value for May 2021 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

April – Acceptance – on our Values Treasure Island

Reception: Kohei Machin, Cassian Swan-McKee (also, for previous month - Responsibility Logan Haynes and Aya Secker)

Year 1: Izzy Campbell, Mila Garofalo, Isabella Johnson, Sienna Lothian.

Year 2: Bobbee Carlo, Evelyn Cusack, Lexi George, Scarlett McCready, Gabriel Walker.

Year 3: Ava-Rose Barry, Jack Horne, Lois Hutchings, Maddie Ellaway.

Year 4: Jack Cripps, Avalie Leonard, Ben Reynolds, Regan Rhodes, Henry Rust, Evie Webb.

Staff News

We welcome Mrs Kehoe, who recently started as Pre-School MDSA and also Mrs Refai who will be joining our Catering team shortly.

We hope they both enjoy their new jobs at Doverly Down.

New school year – transition morning

We are having a ‘Move up morning’ on Wednesday 7th July so the children can have some time in their new classrooms. Our new September starters in Reception class will also be in school, in groups of 10 children (more details to follow). We are still waiting to hear if Y4 will be able to visit their Middle Schools for a transition and we will let you know as soon as a decision is made.

Forest School – Taster Sessions

The children have been having so much fun in the woods on Tuesday afternoons. So far 4 classes have enjoyed various activities ranging from whittling and climbing to swinging on a rope and lazing in a hammock! Each session finishes with hot chocolate and marshmallows round the fire. It's been an absolute joy to see the children engaged in everything. Thank you to the PTA for funding this fantastic experience and to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Axe for running the sessions. Here are just some of the photos we have taken – lots more will be on the website.



PTA UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone who has bought a lottery ticket. Remember, anyone can sign up so forward on to your friends and relatives. Tickets start at £1 per week and there is a winner from every draw. 76% of all the proceeds come to the PTA and we are aiming to raise well over £1000 for the PTA this year.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/dovery-down-lower-school>

Congratulations to our lucky winners!

- Rosalynn Haynes
- Carol Rhodes
- Debbie Hobday

To show how your money benefits the children I would like to highlight the highly successful forest school. The children have been raving about how brilliant it was. Feedback from parents has also been very positive, given the difficult time children have experienced over the past year the PTA is very happy to fund such a fantastic experience for them. We will be working with Mrs. Brewster on planning more in the future.

We have taken our first tentative steps to planning the summer fayre. The Fayre will be on 17th July so please save the date. We will be reaching out in the next month or so to ask for your contributions and help. It is far from guaranteed that the event will go ahead but we are hopeful for both fair weather and

One thing that will go ahead regardless is the raffle. Many companies provide support for employee causes and we have had donations from parent's companies in the past. If anyone is in a position to donate a prize or ask their company to do so, please get in touch.

We also ask you to keep hold of uniforms as we will be arranging a stall to buy, swap and donate at the fayre.

FREE Money!! (for the PTA) Make buying insurance more rewarding! Get up to £12.50 using a price comparison site!

Booking a holiday (finally)? Booking.com will bag us 4% donation at no cost to you.

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

Buy Name badges through Stikins

<https://www.stikins.co.uk> - please use Dovery Down PTA quote number 6066 when ordering and PTA will get 30% commission. Thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Tim Machin
PTA Chair

GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Since the April governor's update, we have had our Curriculum and Pastoral Committee and we have also agreed on next year's budget.

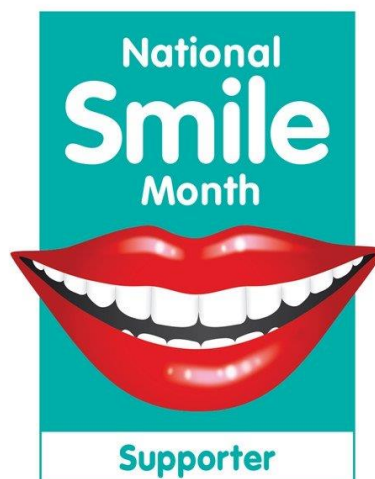
Our Vice-Chair and I continue to attend meetings with other schools and governors and it is always interesting to hear directly from policymakers and to meet and talk to a number of governors from different schools. As you may have heard, Central Bedfordshire Council's Schools for the Future programme has been delayed until 2025/2026, which is naturally disappointing to hear, at least the children will have stability going forward.

Central Bedfordshire Council has recently undertaken a review of the school with two very experienced Schools Improvement Advisor spending the day at the school speaking to the staff and the children, The main benefits to these reviews is to improve the school standards by developing ways to improve on our current processes, ultimately raising the standards of the education our children receives. The governing board will ensure that all recommendations are implemented as soon as practicably possible.

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.

Best wishes,

Ian Haynes
Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Board



STAY & PLAY

After School Club

3.30pm – 5.30pm

Our Stay & Play Club currently has spaces available on most days. We have lots of different activities on offer for the children to do including construction and 'small world' toys, arts and crafts, etc. and a chance to go outside in nicer weather to play on the playground or playdale.

Our rates are very reasonable - charges are £4.75 for the first hour and then £2.25 for each half hour after 4.30pm (plus £2 registration fee). If you would like more information please contact Andrea or Jackie on 07517 752979.

Recent article from the local paper. Well done to everyone involved – what a brilliant venture!



We thought you might like to see some of the amazing displays in the classrooms this term:

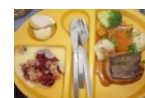




DINNER MONEY UPDATE



***Year 3 and Year 4: £2.30 daily and £11.50 weekly
(recent change in line with increased costs)***



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

Please make all payments promptly to avoid reminders and arears.

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.
Our Safeguarding Governor is Mr Ian Haynes.

Thank you for your co-operation.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE – IN/OUT of THE CAR

When parking on the school site we do not recommend that any child, no matter what age is left in the car for any duration. A child left unsupervised is at risk in terms of being harmed by injury, choking or vehicle collision. We also want to emphasise that anyone could attempt to take your child from the car.

Bring your child with you when you drop off or collect – it only takes an extra few minutes.

Please keep all children safe from harm!

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).

If your child is having a Covid 19 test at a Test Centre, please let us know and inform us of the results once received.

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



Dates for the diary



2021 Dates for the diary

Monday 19th April – Monday 12th July (10 sessions)	Y4 swimming at Tiddenfoot (letters have gone home)
Week Beginning 24 th May 2021	Parent telephone consultations (times have been sent out)
Tuesday 25th May 2021 (afternoon)	Y4 Forest School Taster Session
Thursday 27th May 2021	Year 4 Outdoor Adventure Day at Rock UK (letters have gone home) – Leaving Dover promptly at 8am
Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term week including Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 7 th June 2021	Inset Day
Tuesday 8th June 2021	YR Extra Forest School Session
Thursday 10th June 2021	ZooLab visit – Reception class only
Wednesday 7th July 2021	Move up morning at Dover
Saturday 17th July 2021	PTA Summer Fayre
Wednesday 21 st July 2021	Year 4 Leavers BBQ (more details to follow)
Thursday 22 nd July 2021	Year 4 Leavers Performance at 1pm (outdoors) End of Summer Term
Wednesday 1st – Friday 3rd September 2021	Inset Days
Monday 6th September 2021	Start of Autumn Term
Monday 25th – Friday 29th October 2021	Half Term week
Monday 1st November 2021	Return to school after half term (this is NOT an Inset Day)
Friday 17th December 2021	End of Autumn Term

2022 Dates for the diary

Tuesday 4th January 2022	Start of Spring Term
Monday 14th – Friday 18th February 2022	Half Term week
Friday 1st April 2022	End of Spring Term
Monday 4th – Monday 18th April 2022	Easter holidays
Tuesday 19th April 2022	Inset Day
Wednesday 20th April 2022	Start of Summer Term