



DOWNS WAY SCHOOL NEWS

July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our busy term nears its end this is a good opportunity to celebrate some of the things we have been doing, and look forward to even more excitement ahead!

Our singers have been very busy – not only in the Summerfest at the Barn Theatre, but also at the St Mary's Party in the Playground. They will be in action again at our leavers' assembly. Everyone is very excited about meeting their new teachers and we're talked about just how to make a good first impression. Check the newsletter for dates of upcoming events so that you don't miss out.

I look forward to seeing you and your children at our Open Evening on Wednesday.

Best wishes

Sarah Lewis



Transition Day Tues 5th July

On the Transition Day pupils get to spend the day in their new classes and meet their new teachers and teaching assistants. Pupils will begin the day in their current classes and will be picked up at the end of the day from their new classrooms. **You will be sent an email or text on the 5th letting you know which room to pick up from.** If your child is in Yr 2 and going to St Mary's Junior School they will be spending the day at St Mary's. (You will have had a letter detailing this.) The children will be entitled to their free school meal as usual.

Pupils will not need to bring their bookbags to school on transition day.



Open Evening Wed 6th July 5-7pm

Please come and visit our lovely school. The classrooms will be open for you to meet with staff and look at work on display. Friends and family very welcome. (This is not a Parents' Evening but an opportunity for informal chats with staff and to meet your child's new teaching team.)

There will be a performance by the Yr 2 Summerfest Choir in the Hall at 5.30pm.



Polka Theatre Trip 13th July 2016

PLEASE DROP CHILDREN OFF TO CLASSROOMS AT 8.45AM

Key Stage One is really excited about going on their upcoming theatre trip! We're off to see James and the Giant Peach at the Polka Theatre in London. The teachers have been lucky enough to see a preview of the play and know the children are going to have a fabulous time! We will be travelling by coach to the show, which begins at 10.15am. We will enjoy a picnic lunch after the performance. *Mrs Tassell*



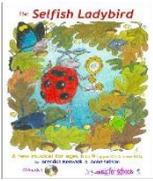
Yr 2 Leavers' Party Fri 15th 6-9pm

Year 2 are invited to a party at school. They will also have the opportunity to take part in the *Downs Way Talent Show!* (Please see letter for details & permission slip.)



Yr 2 Walk Tues 19th July

The Year 2 children and staff will spend the day walking on The Downs. They will have a picnic lunch and visit a farm.



Yr 2 Leavers' Assembly Fri 22nd July 9.15am

Parents, carers, friends & family are invited to watch the Yr 2 children in their performance of *The Selfish Ladybird*.

Gatton Park Trip



On Thursday 9th June Reception went to Gatton Park to hunt for some caterpillars and tadpoles. We had great fun listening to new stories teaching us about the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. We made camouflaged caterpillars, pond dipping, headbands and our own puppet tadpoles. The sun came out and we enjoyed eating our picnic in the beautiful grounds. Thank you to all the adults that gave up their time to join us.

Miss Crammond & Mrs Pickett



Summerfest



Year 2 had a wonderful time at the Barn Theatre 18th June. They sang with confidence and enthusiasm.

They particularly enjoyed singing the song Sing with Holland school. It was a delight being with them! Mrs Laird

“Thank You” to Mrs Laird & Mrs Webb for all their hard work, enabling the children to have a lovely experience. The organisers of the Summerfest have generously given Downs Way School a donation of £200 which we shall use to enhance music across the school. We look forward to next year’s Yr 2 taking part in a Winterfest!



On the 20th June, Grasshoppers class went to Brighton Sea Life Centre. We travelled by train and had an excellent day. Despite the weather which wasn't on our side, we kept smiling and used all our energy to walk to and from the stations. When we arrived, we were damp and soggy! But as soon as we saw all the tropical fishes, there were smiles all round. At the Sea Life centre, there were fishes, stingrays, sharks, terrapins, seahorses, turtles, shrimps and starfishes. Some of the children even got to touch the starfishes and anemones in the Rock Pool. Strangely enough, we ate our lunch right in front of all the sharks and turtles in the auditorium. When we returned home, we all received medals, little books and diver goggles for us to remember our special trip. Thank you to the parents that helped! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. The day afterwards, the children produced some fantastic superstar pieces of writing about their experiences.

Miss Ackerley

Yesterday I went to the Sea Life Center. It was very fun especially when I saw the enormous turtle. It was a amazing site. It was so lovely to see the turtles swimming up and down. I also saw cute little seahorses. What a wonderful sight to see the stingrays flapping! How amazing it was to feel the starfish.

Daisy Jennings - Grasshoppers



Sports Day

Sports Day was a great success and enjoyed by all. We managed to get a morning of good weather! Well done to all the children who enthusiastically took part in a range of activities and behaved superbly. Thank you to all the Downs Way Team for their hard work and to all those who came to support the children.

CARNIVAL



The pupils of Downs Way took part in the Oxted Carnival on Sat 2nd July. The theme was The 60s and Downs Way's entry was Scooby Doo! Despite the rain everyone entered into the carnival spirit.

A big "Thank You" to The Friends of Downs Way for all their hard work and to those who helped with the parade. A massive "Well Done!" to all the children who took part.

Dearest all!

Maribel, Louise and I cannot express enough how proud we all are with your wonderful kids! In all that torrential pouring rain they kept going, they kept waving and cheering and where possible smiling too.

Parent and teacher group leaders.....What can I say apart from thank you, thank you thank you!! Without you we can't do these things, thanks for all the help trying to keep the tiddlers dry and warm and just thank you for your time and smiles that shone through. Daddies that pushed the van! You never faltered. You never stopped smiling and laughing! You did us proud! To all the parents who helped us along by waving and cheering from the sidelines! You gave the kids such a boost!

From the bottom of our hearts THANK YOU! !!!!!

Emma Courtman

Before & After School

Please ensure that your children do not play on or with the equipment in the outside areas before or after school. (Climbing frames, monkey bars, walkers, construction blocks, etc.) Accidents can happen and staff are not supervising these areas at these times.

If you wish to leave your child in the supervised playground at 8.45am they are able to play on the wonderful climbing equipment and play with our resources.

Please vacate the site promptly at pick up time. The site manager locks the gates at 3.45pm in order to secure the site and is often waiting as adults and children are on the field.

Scooters and Bikes

To ensure the safety of everyone using our school site please could you ensure that all children get off their bikes and scooters when they **come onto school grounds (either at the main entrance or at the St Mary's gate on Silkham road)** and then park them outside the cabin. We've had several 'near misses' with and complaints about bikes and scooters on the paths and playgrounds!

Please refrain from bringing dogs and other animals onto site.



Parking



We have had several complaints and concerns raised by parents and neighbours recently. We are all really worried that a child may be seriously hurt because of dangerous parking and driving. We have had reports of cars being parked in front of the drop down kerbs where children cross the road. Please refrain from blocking the school car park gate whilst waiting for a space to become available in Downs Way. The car park gate must remain clear. We have contacted the local community Police to support us in this matter and would ask any of you who witness behaviour that endangers children to give us number plates that we will publish in our newsletter and share with the Police. We would urge anyone who lives within a 15 minute walk of the school to leave their cars behind and help reduce the congestion. Thank you for your support.



Spare Clothing

In infant schools 'accidents' can happen. Please help us by ensuring that your child has a **full** spare set of named clothing in school so we are ready for any eventuality!

If anyone has old pants, socks and tights that they have grown out of and are in good condition, please would you bring them to the school office as our store of 'spares' has depleted to zero!!

Absences

If your child is unwell or is going to be late to school for any reason, please ring or email the Office BEFORE 9:15am to let us know the reason for your child's absence.

Newsletter by Email

If you have received this Newsletter as a paper copy and you would prefer to receive it by email please email the Office to let them know office@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk

DOWNS WAY SUMMER TERM 2016 DATES	
Thurs 9 th June	EYFS (Dragonflies & Ladybirds) Gatton Park Trip
Mon 13 th	Yr 1 Phonics Screening week
Wed 15 th	Yr 2 1-4pm Summer Fest Rehearsal
Sat 18 th	Yr 2 Summer Fest at Barn Theatre
Mon 20 th	Yr 2 Brighton Trip
Wed 22 nd	EYFS New Parents/Carers meeting
Fri 24 th	Sports Day – morning & lunch
Tues 28 th	Final Yr 2 Swimming session
Fri 1 st July	St Mary's Party in the Playground Yr 2 Summer Fest group performing 6.30-7.30pm
Sat 2 nd	CARNIVAL 1pm Oxted Library
Tues 5 th	Transition Day (pupils to new classes/schools)
Wed 6 th	Open Eve 5-7pm 5.30pm Summerfest Choir performance
Thurs 7 th	Oxted Librarian Visit
Fri 8 th	Reports go home
Sat 9 th	Friends/Parents Wildlife Garden Clean Up Session 9 -11am
Mon 11 th	Yr 2 Multi-Skills Sports – grp 3
Tues 12 th	Thank You Assembly for helpers (invitations sent out)
Wed 13 th	KS1 (Yr 1 & 2) Polka Theatre Trip
Thurs 14 th	Yr 2 transition to St Mary's – last hour of day
Fri 15 th	Yr Leavers' Party 6-9pm
Tues 19 th	Yr 2 Walk
Fri 22 nd	Yr 2 Leavers' Assembly 9.15am
Fri 22 nd	Last day of term – pick up 3.15pm

Term Dates for 2015/2016

Summer term 2016

Start of term	Half term	End of term
11 th April 2016	30 th May – 3 rd June 2016	22 nd July 2016

Term Dates for 2016/2017

Autumn term 2016

INSET Days **Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 September**

Start of term	Half term	End of term
7 September 2016	24 October–28 October 2016	21 December 2016

INSET Day **Monday 31 October**

Spring term 2017

INSET Day **Tuesday 3 January**

Start of term	Half term	End of term
4 January 2017	13 February–17 February 2017	31 March 2017

Summer term 2017

Start of term	Half term	End of term
18 April 2017	29 May–2 June 2017	21 July 2017

INSET Day **Monday 5 June (TBC)**