



# DOWNSWAY SCHOOL NEWS

**MAY 2017**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*What a lot of fun we have had this half-term! The children have been working hard on their learning powers, and linking the skills of Captain Resilience, the Questioner and Collaboration Kid together. Our year 2 children have completed their SATs and are now busy preparing for their end of year show – Stella the Starfish. We've had trips and visits galore – and have thoroughly enjoyed getting back onto the field to play in all the lovely sunshine.*

*I hope you all enjoy the half-term with your families.*

*Best wishes*

*Sarah Lewis*

## **Visit from Fire Brigade and Police**

As part of our 'People who help us' topic, Angelfish and Starfish enjoyed visits from Oxted Fire Brigade and Surrey Police. We were able to ask questions, go inside the vehicles and even use the hose! The police showed us their siren which was loud and exciting.

Thank you to Oxted Fire Brigade and Surrey Police for coming to see us.



## **Under the Sea Workshop**



On Friday 19th May the Reception classes had an arts workshop around our 'under the sea theme'. This include dance, drama and cooking! All the children learned a dance to 'under the sea' which they will have the chance to perform to parents at 'Party in the Playground' in July.

## SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS ATHLETE VISIT

On **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**, we're very excited to be welcoming GB 100m Hurdler Serita Solomon to the school. Serita is one of Great Britain's top female hurdlers and has been representing Great Britain since 2007, she competed in the 2014 Commonwealth games in Glasgow.

Serita will be leading a sponsored fitness circuit with all pupils, and will follow-up with a question and answer session. You have all been given sponsorship forms to help raise money for this event and extra sports equipment for our school. Please ensure that the sponsorship forms and moneys are returned to the school office on or before **Tuesday, 13 June** at the latest.

Please also make sure that your child/children come to school on the event day with their PE Kits!

Thank you for your support with this memorable and exciting event! Miss Ackerley

## Seahorses Class trip to the British Wildlife Centre

Seahorses are looking forward to their Class trip to the British Wildlife, which is on Friday the 9th of June 2017. Just a reminder that children are wearing their school tops and comfortable bottoms and footwear. School packed lunch will be provided if parent has requested on consent form.

## SummerFest

On Saturday the 10th of June we will have a of group year 2 students singing at the Barn Theatre as part of the Summer fest. This will be an exciting time for all those taking part.

I want to thank especially Ruby Baines, Safria Chand, Lucia Forlizzi, Grace Geldenhuys, Scarlett Jones, Ola Kania, Evan Kirk, Sophie Selwood, Maisy Shadrach, Lily Courtman, Holly Elrick, Connie Farrell, Jasmine Howgate, Bella Reid, Sophia Vilela Pitt, and Lucy Wells-Emerson for their enthusiasm when rehearsing.

It's going to be a fantastic occasion, see you there!

## YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING



The national Y1 Phonics Screening Checks will take place during the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June. This is an assessment of the knowledge pupils have of phonemes and blends. It is always helpful if you are able to support your child with their phonics at home (e.g games, flash cards, reading). I know that some of you have subscribed to Phonics Play and this has a wealth of resources for you to use with your children. Ask your child and they should be able to show you all that they have learnt!



## SPORTS DAY Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

We will be having our annual sports morning on the St Mary's School site. This will begin at 9.15am. You are invited to join us for the morning and stay for lunch with your child/children as we will (weather permitting) picnic on the Downs Way Site. A letter with more details will be sent home nearer the time.



### A plea from the Midday Supervisors

Please could you look at the school dinner menu:

<http://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/media/1547229/primary-springsummer-2017-menu-leaflet.pdf>

and cook some of these dishes at home and encourage your children to eat them, perhaps as a family as a whole. The children are offered a very varied menu but don't seem to recognise the different meals and are often scared to try them. We are noticing higher levels of food being thrown away.



### SUN SAFETY

As the days become hotter we would like to remind you to apply sun screen to your child before they come to school. Please ensure that they have a sunhat to wear, as much of the play area is unshaded. We always encourage the children to drink plenty of water and sit in the shade. If your child is taking part in before or after school activities you may wish to send a water bottle into school. A water bottle would be beneficial for the last few weeks of Y2 swimming lessons.

### 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.

Please vacate the site promptly at pick up time. The site manager locks the gates at 3.40pm in order to secure the site and often has to wait because adults and children are still on the grass.

## Parent/Carer Parking

Parking near schools is always difficult, however this can never be an excuse for illegal and reckless driving and parking. We have a collective responsibility for the care of the children in our community – and currently their lives are being put at risk! We have had a number of complaints recently from local residents about inconsiderate parking. Residents will be passing details of or taking photos of inconsiderately parked vehicles.

Downs Way School will be starting the practice of taking in the number plates of cars driving and parking dangerously or anti-socially at school drop off and pick up times, as reported to us by parents and local residents. We will publish these in our newsletters and report them to the police. The types of behaviour witnessed so far this term, which would be reported and published are:

- Stopping and dropping off at the school gates.
- Parking in the turning bay indicated by the 'Keep Clear' notice on the road surface.
- Turning into the school car park (please note this car park is a private car park for staff only).
- Blocking the driveways of neighbours.
- Parking on corners.
- Leaving litter including cigarette butts on the ground.

If you have been doing these things – then stop! If you have seen these things – then tell us! If you live within a 20 minute walk of school and have no other school run – then walk!



## Spare Clothing

In infant schools 'accidents' can happen, including falling in puddles. Please help us by ensuring that your child, whichever year group, has a spare set of named clothing in a bag in school so we are ready for any eventuality!



## 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.



## Contact Details

If you change your address and/or phone numbers, please remember to let the Office know. We have had a couple of instances recently where we have not been able to contact a parent because their phone number had changed.

## The Emperor's New Clothes – Moor House School

Following last year's fabulous performance of Danny Champion of The World, our neighbours at Moor House School & College are pleased to welcome back award winning touring theatre company, Illyria, to perform the classic Hans Christian Andersen story of The Emperor's New Clothes.

Two swindlers spin a yarn and the Emperor allows himself to be taken in. Will the Emperor be stitched up? All, as they say, will be revealed in Illyria's cheekiest show ever!

The cost of tickets is:

Adult	£12.50
Child	£10.00
Family (1adult & 3 children or 2 adults and 2 children)	£40.00

Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/newclothesbooking> or by calling 01883 770990.

The show is suitable for ages 5 and over and lasts approximately 1 hour 40 minutes, including a 20 minute interval.

Gates open at 5.30pm and you are welcome to bring a picnic or enjoy some drinks and confectionery from the refreshment stall, while the children make use of the play equipment on site, until the fun begins at 7pm.

Seating is on the grass in front of the stage and you are advised to bring low-backed chairs or rugs to sit on. Performances take place in all weather conditions so please prepare for any eventuality.

All profits will be allocated to the building of a brand new therapy hub at Moor House School & College. Moor House is a pioneering charity offering specialist teaching, therapy and residential care to children and young people aged 7 to 19 with severe and complex speech and language disorders.

For any queries please contact Tia Melbourne on 01883 770990.

## 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](mailto:office@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk)

<b>DOWNS WAY SUMMER TERM 2017 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>	
Tuesday 25 April – Tuesday 27 June	Y2 Swimming at Tandridge Leisure Centre
Monday 5 June	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 June	Back to School. Sports for Schools Fundraising
Thursday 8 June	Early Years to Gatton Park
Friday 9 June	Seahorses Trip to British Wildlife Centre
Friday 9 June	4-6pm Year 2 Summerfest rehearsal
Saturday 10 June	Year 2 Summerfest at Barn Theatre
Monday 12 June	Year 1 Phonics Screening week
Wednesday 21 June	7pm: Reception 2017 new parents meeting
Friday 23 June	Morning and lunch: Sports Day
Saturday 1 July	Carnival
Tuesday 4 July	Transition day (pupils to new classes/schools)
Wednesday 5 July	5-6:30pm: Open evening/art gallery
Friday 14 July	Reports go home
Tuesday 18 July	Year 2 walk
Wednesday 19 July	5-7pm: Year 2 leavers' party
Friday 21 July	9:15am: Year 2 leavers' assembly. Last day of term

## Term Dates for 2017

### Summer Term 2017

Term Dates	Tuesday 18 April to Friday 26 May
MAY DAY HOLIDAY	Monday 1 May
HALF TERM	Saturday 27 May to Sunday 4 June
INSET DAY	Monday 5 June
Term Dates	Tuesday 6 June to Friday 21 July
Summer Holiday	Saturday 22 July to Sunday 3 September

## Academic year 2017/2018

### Autumn term 2017

Start of term	Half term	End of term
4 September 2017	23 October–27 October 2017	21 December 2017
INSET Day	Monday 4 September	
INSET Day	Friday 6 October	
INSET Day	Monday 30 October	

### Spring term 2018

Start of term	Half term	End of term
4 January 2018	12 February–16 February 2018	29 March 2018

### Summer term 2018

Start of term	Half term	End of term
16 April 2018	28 May–1 June 2018	23 July 2018
INSET Day	Monday 4 June	
INSET Day	Monday 23 July	