



DOWNSWAY SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a positive and happy start we have had to our new school year. We are so delighted with the way the children have settled into their new classes. Our Reception children are doing brilliantly – although I suspect there might be some grumpy little ones by the end of this week when the tiredness off full days catches up with them!

I am sure you will agree that the school site is also looking great. Our investment in the re-landscaping, new astro-turf and extended canopy outside EYFS has transformed that learning space. Inside the school classrooms have new lighting and have been decorated. We have new staff, and a new reading scheme and lots to share with you and enjoy in the coming weeks. I'm very much looking forward to working with you all in this exciting year ahead.

Best wishes
Sarah Lewis



READING INFORMATION EVENING Mon 18th Sept 6pm

We are running an evening presentation of our new reading scheme. Mrs Wallace will be discussing how the scheme for individual and guided reading works and how assessments are made. (This is an evening pitched at adults, not children.) If you are unable to attend, the presentation will be uploaded to the school's website.

We are extremely grateful to the Friends of Downs Way for funding the purchase of such attractive and interesting new books. We look forward to seeing many of you on Monday evening.

School Meals – Plea from the Office



Please let the Office know **BEFORE** your child changes to a packed lunch or a school meal, even if you just want them to try a school meal/bring a packed lunch for a day or two. The kitchen is constantly cooking the wrong number of meals because we haven't known that a child has changed. Although school meals are free to children, the school still has to pay for them.

Please also let us know if your child has any allergies/diet requirements.

Thank you.

Class Dojo

This year we are introducing Class Dojo to Downs Way School. Within the classroom the children can earn 'dojo' awards – which they find very exciting!

A feature you may enjoy is the 'Class Story' – where teachers can post up photos of learning in action for you to enjoy. These pictures can only be accessed by individual codes which will be supplied to you. Information will be coming out to you via your class teachers about how to sign up.



Contacting Staff

In infant schools often the best way to let us know about any changes or to sort out any questions or little niggles is to just have a quick chat. However sometimes that can be tricky for our working parents, or for other reasons.

For this reason you are able to email any of us either by using office@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk and marking your message for the individual member of staff, or by emailing the teachers directly:

Angelfish: Mrs Wallace swallace@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Mrs Quinn: squinn@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Mrs Gilding: lgilding@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Starfish: Miss White: awhite@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Seahorses: Miss Hutchinson ahutchinson@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Turtles: Mr Menham lmeham@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Whales: Mrs Legister tlegister@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk
Dolphins: Miss Bester rbester@downs-way.surrey.sch.uk

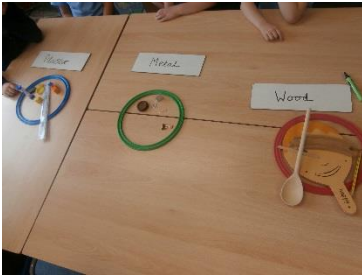
RECEPTION

Angelfish and Starfish classes should be feeling so proud of themselves. They have settled into Downs Way life so easily it feels like they have been here much longer than 2 weeks! We are enjoying learning our initial sounds and beginning reading, helped by the fact we now have an amazing outdoor area! We are looking forward to sharing our lovely learning with you



YEAR 1

Everyone has made a fantastic start to Year 1! We have been busy writing descriptively about fantasy settings. We have been developing our vocabularies by learning an array of new adjectives. We have also been learning all about numbers and taking time to improve our formation. Furthermore, we have been exploring 'materials' in Science. We focused on wood, metal and plastic. We then found objects from around the classroom and sorted them into groups!



A great first couple of weeks - keep working hard!



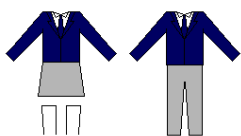
The Friends of Downs Way

The Friends of Downs Way are a fabulous group of parents who fundraise for our school. These funds are used for resources and activities that benefit all of your children. The Friends also organise social activities which are great fun and a really good way of getting to meet other parents. If you are interested in joining The Friends and helping make our school the great place that it is, please speak to your class reps, Jemma Rudniki or Emma Courtman (who were last year's Chairs) or Sahrah Chaudhri.



Coffee Morning Fri 22nd Sept 9am

The Friends of Downs Way will be hosting a Coffee Morning in the Hall. Please do drop in.



Second Hand Uniform Sale Friday 22nd Sept

The Friends will be selling items at the coffee morning between 9-10am and after school at 3.15pm. If you have any items (in good condition) that you no longer need please hand them into the school office.

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.



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!

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 are constantly hearing 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, 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!



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 or that they will be late. School meal numbers are given to the kitchen first thing in the morning so we need to know if your child is coming in or not.



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 where we have not been able to contact a parent because their phone number has changed.

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 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 18 September	6pm: Reading information evening
Thursday 21 September	9.30: Surrey Mirror taking photos of Reception
Tuesday 26 September	9.30: School Tour for 2018 prospective parents
Tuesday 3 October	9.30: School Tour for 2018 prospective parents
Friday 6 October	INSET day
Tuesday 10 October	9.30: School Tour for 2018 prospective parents
Tuesday 17 October	9.30: School Tour for 2018 prospective parents
Wednesday 18 October	9.30 Flu immunisation – details to follow
Wednesday 18 October	Parents' evening - details to follow
Thursday 19 October	Parents' evening – details to follow

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



the parenting course (4-11 years)

building strong families

**Starts Monday 2nd October for 4 weeks,
7:45-10pm at The King's Centre,
Amy Road, Oxted, RH8 0PW**

**For more information:
sarah@kingschurchoxted.com
01883 734 805
kingschurchoxted.com**