



DOWNSWAY SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 2016



CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY 3RD DEC 2-4PM

Come along to Downs Way School for the Christmas Fair. The Friends of Downs Way have worked hard to make the Fair a lovely event. Please bring along family and friends. All money raised benefits the children of the school. Thank you for your donations of bottles, cakes and other items. The Year 2 Choir will be performing at the opening of the Fair. There will be a hamper raffle, raffle tree, silent auction, cake stall, bottle tombola, teddy tombola, Santa's Grotto and much, much more.....

If you are able to offer help on the day please contact The Friends asap!



Nativity Plays

Reception Classes	Friday 9 th Dec	9.15am	It's A Baby
Y1 & 2	Wednesday 14 th Dec	2pm & 6pm	Nearly No Nativity

(The evening performance is ticketed event. Tickets have been sent home. This is a very popular performance and we cannot overcrowd the hall for the safety of all.)

There will be a collection for Save the Children after each performance.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FRIDAY 16TH DEC

Children to wear a Christmas jumpers and own clothes. Please send in a charity donation of at least £1. We are raising money for Save the Children. We will also have collections at our Nativity Performances. Thank you for your kindness.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Letters have been sent home to pupils who have packed lunch regarding ordering a Christmas Lunch.

OXTED ADVENTURE MON 19TH DEC 6-7PM



Downs Way School are proud to take part in the Oxted Adventure.

This is a wonderful happening that takes place every night of Advent around Oxted.

We will be performing songs from the Nativity plays.

If your Year 1 or 2 child would like to take part please return the permission slip which will be sent home in book bags. Children who are taking part need to arrive back at school for **5.45pm**.

We welcome all of you to come along in the evening to be entertained by us.

Thanks to the Friends of Downs Way who will be providing Mince pies, tea, coffee and mulled wine.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

2 children from each class were elected by their classmates to the School Council.



The School Council told their classes about a competition to design a Nativity Play poster. Naomi Shelley's design was chosen for KS1. Annabel Luscombe's design was chosen for EYFS.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Each class produced Poppy Artwork for our assembly. The children joined in with the silence at 11am.



CHURCH VISIT

Year 1 and 2 visited St Mary's Church as part of their Religious Education curriculum.

"The Church made us feel happy." "It made us feel good."

All of the children loved the sound of the bell.

MULTI-SKILLS

On Monday 21st November, 10 children from year 2 went to Limpsfield School for an afternoon of sports.



We were competing against other schools including Limpsfield, St Peters, St Peter and St Pauls, St Stephens and Hurst Green. The year 2 children that came worked well as a team and showed great enthusiasm for trying their best. We thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon of balancing balls on rackets, dribbling around cones, catching beanbags and running through agility ladders. Downs Way won first place in over and under, beanbag catches and the obstacle race. We received certificates for this and each child was given a rosette for taking part. We look forward to doing this exciting festival again in the Spring!

Miss Ackerley

Last Day of Term

Please note that the day finishes at 3.15pm as usual.

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 through the school gate (either at the main entrance (big blue gates) or at the St Mary's gate on Silkham road) and then park them in the Scooter Park. We've had several 'near misses' with 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 up 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. Hopefully you will have all read the **PEDESTRIAN POWER** minutes which were emailed to you yesterday, please take advantage of these congestion relieving ideas.

Lunches

It really helps our school if children accept the free school meal offered by the government. Basically they give us more money which we can spend on the school! If your child is having a packed lunch please support us by making sure it is just a healthy as the lunch we provide for free. We're seeing bars of chocolate, packets of sweets and items containing nuts (this includes Nutella, Bakewell tarts and peanut butter I'm afraid!). None of these items is suitable for a school packed lunch and I would be grateful if you could ensure that they are not included in future.

Spare Clothing

In infant schools 'accidents' can happen. Please help us by ensuring that your child has a spare set of named clothing 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.

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

Dates for your diary

Term Dates for 2016/2017

Autumn term 2016

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)**