



DOWNSWAY SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. The first part of this term seems to have gone by in a flash. We've been doing some reflecting in school on the 'fresh' start that a new year can bring us. We're hoping to get back to the top of our 'resolutions' some of the following

- Making sure that we are all in school on time – i.e. before 8.55 am
- Making sure that we are dressed smartly, and only wearing items that are actually part of school uniform
- Making sure that in everything we say and everything we do we show respect for our school and each other

We're hoping that all staff and parents will take these resolutions to heart – not just the children!

In the last week before half-term on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th we have our **Parents Evenings**. We encourage you to bring your child into the meeting this time round so that everyone hears the same messages.

Throughout the week of 6th February, and across both schools we are having a **Road Safety Week**. The staff have been busy preparing great activities for the children and we will be sending home links and activities for you to share with your children.

Best wishes

Sarah Lewis

JINGLE BARN ROCK



The Barn Theatre combined their forces with St. Mary's and Downs Way schools to present Jingle Barn Rock on the Barn stage on December 10th 2016. The proceeds were split between the participating schools and the theatre, with over £3,000 going to each. Huge thanks to theatre Chairman, Bruce Reed and the Barn team, Head Teacher, Sarah Lewis and her team, all the children who performed and all the families who came and supported the show. A fabulous day was had by all.



Pedestrian Power Transport Survey

Reminder: The deadline for this survey is midnight on Wednesday 25th February. We would be grateful for everyone's comments using the link below:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/st-marys_downsway_transport_survey



CAPTAIN RESILIENCE!

Poster by Naomi Shelley

You may have heard about a new super hero at Downs Way called Captain Resilience. He visited the school on the first day of term and caused a lot of excitement amongst pupils and staff. He helps the children to become learning superstars. As part of our Building Learning Power approach Resilience is a key attribute the children need to acquire. This is discussed during assembly time and in the classrooms. Ask your child all about it! They can also teach you our Captain Resilience Song and actions.....

Captain Resilience Song

Captain Resilience

You cannot distract him, however hard you try

Captain Resilience

Sticks to every challenge – he won't give up and cry

He can notice tiny details, is absorbed in every way

Captain Resilience

Loves to learn each day



SCHOOL DISCO Saturday 4th March 3.30pm – 5.00pm

The Friends invite you and your children to join them at a fun family disco. Details to follow from the Friends.



Living Eggs

..... & Sponsored Run

Angelfish and Starfish took part in a Sponsored Run on St Mary's running track last week. Wow – what a lot of resilient runners in Reception; they did fantastically!

The Sponsored Run was to raise funds for the Living Eggs scheme – which the children will enjoy in March. They will be able to observe chicks hatch from eggs over the course of 10 days. If you watched the Secret Life of 4 Year Olds on BBC recently you would have seen this company and the service they deliver. We're in for a treat!

We think the children will thoroughly enjoy this learning experience and greatly appreciate all sponsorship money received so far. Please could you ensure any remaining money is collected and given to school by Friday 27th January.

Many thanks – Reception team

A message from the Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

We hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

We would like to thank you all for your time, interest and input to the consultation about the proposed amalgamation of St Mary's Juniors with Downs Way Infants together with the expansion of St Mary's Juniors by 30 places per year. We are very pleased with the number of responses.

We will inform you about the next steps later this month and the final summary of issues raised and responses will be placed on the schools' websites.

We wish you a wonderful 2017

Your Chairs of Governors

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 SPRING TERM 2017 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Tuesday 7 th Feb	5 – 7.30 Parents Evening with children (letter to follow)
Wednesday 8 th Feb	3.30 – 6.00 Parents Evening with children (letter to follow)
Saturday 4 th Mar	Family Disco 3.30 – 5.00pm
Thursday 16 th Mar	Year 2 trip to National Gallery
Friday 31 st Mar	9.15am Easter Assembly, parents welcome

Term Dates for 2017

Spring Term 2017

Term Dates	Wednesday 4 January to Friday 10 February
HALF TERM	Saturday 11 February to Sunday 19 February
Term Dates	Monday 20 February to Friday 31 March
Easter Holiday	Saturday 1 April to Monday 17 April

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 TBC
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

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

(5 INSET dates to be allocated)