



# DOWNS WAY SCHOOL NEWS

May 2016

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*It has been a very busy half term with the Queen's birthday celebrations, class trips, the good weather arriving and lots of great teaching and learning taking place. We hope that you and your families have a lovely half term holiday.*

*Best wishes*

*Sahrah Chaudhri & the Downs Way Team*



## Queen's Birthday Commemorative Coins

Your child will be coming home with a commemorative coin, kindly donated by the Friends of Downs Way.



## Year 1 Phonics Screening

During the **week of 13<sup>th</sup> June** all Year 1 pupils across the country will be assessed on their knowledge of phonics. It would be very helpful for your child if you looked at the phonemes that they have covered over the year using the resources that have been sent home. Word games, flash cards and reading are all fun and beneficial.



## Summerfest Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June

Many of the Year 2s from Grasshoppers Class are looking forward to performing at the Barn Theatre on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> June as part of the Summerfest. It's a showcase of youthful talent by local children and young adults.

Downs Way will be singing a variety of songs including songs from musicals and secular pop.

We are hoping that we will have a good turn out to support us.

We have also been invited to sing at St Mary's Party In The Playground which is another fantastic event. Hope to see you there during the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Janet laird



## Sports Day Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am

Please join us for a morning of sports. We will be running a carousel of activities and then eating lunch together on the field. A letter will be sent home giving you the choice for your child to be given a free packed lunch prepared by the catering team. Please bring along a lunch for yourself and picnic with us.

PE kits will be sent home during the week and children can wear their kits to school and stay in them all day.



## Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

The day was celebrated with a tea party with everyone dressed in red, white and blue.



## Year 1 trip to Kew Gardens

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May Bumblebees and Butterflies enjoyed a fabulous day at Kew Gardens! The children enjoyed learning about 'Super Spines and Climbing Vines'. They discovered the special ways plants survive in two very different habitats - in the desert and in the rainforest. Some of us walked up 109 steps to the 18-metre high Treetop Walkway! We enjoyed playing in the Climbers and Creepers area too. The Palm House was another exciting experience, with lots of interesting plants and flowers to spot.

"It was amazing!" (Jasmine)

"I had lots and lots of fun!" (Lily)

"My favourite place was the Palm House. It is colourful!" (Monty)

"My favourite bit was the rainforest because the flowers were soooo colourful. It was like a rainbow." (Connie)

"I thought the tree top walkway was amazing!" (Freddie)

"I liked the aloe vera and I loved the cactus!" (Emily)



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

DOWNS WAY SUMMER TERM 2016 DATES	
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS (Dragonflies & Ladybirds) Gatton Park Trip
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screening week
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 1-4pm Summer Fest Rehearsal
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Summer Fest at Barn Theatre
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Brighton Trip
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	EYFS New Parents/Carers meeting
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sport Day – morning & lunch
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Final Year 2 Swimming session
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> July	St Mary's Party in the Playground Year 2 Summer Fest group performing

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	CARNIVAL
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Transition Day (pupils to new classes/schools)
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Open Evening 5-7pm
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Reports go home
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Multi-Skills Sports – grp 3
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 (Yr 1 & 2) Polka Theatre Trip
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 transition to St Mary's – from 2.30 pm, parents to collect from school at 2.20pm
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Leavers' Party 6-9pm
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Walk
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 2 Leavers' Assembly 9.15am parents welcome

