

Dovers Green School

September 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents,



A very warm welcome to new parents of Dovers Green. We hope that you will rapidly feel part of our community and would encourage you to join the PTA Facebook page and the class WhatsApp groups. The amount of information that comes from us can sometimes be a bit overwhelming so using these social media platforms can really help if you are not sure about anything. Another important way that teachers communicate is through 'Seesaw' and it really is vital that you check for messages regularly for specific information relating to your child's class.

I send out a monthly newsletter, usually on the first Friday of every month to keep you informed of what is going on at Dovers Green and to give you as much warning as possible of future events and important dates for your diaries. There is a lot to read in this one, so you may want to grab yourselves a cup of tea!

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Bethany Whybrow to the Dovers team and she will be teaching for two days a week in Dragonflies Class.

Congratulations to Caroline McHugh who is now our Deputy Headteacher and to Lucy Richens who is our Early Years Leader.

I am delighted to say that Mrs Rounce had a baby boy called Evan Jesse on Sunday 1 September. Both Mother and baby are doing well.

Sadder news however is that Mrs Nicky Heath, who is the teacher in Grasshoppers, was taken ill on holiday in Croatia. Whilst she is on the road to recovery, she is not yet well enough to fly home. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Class assemblies



Over the year each class will prepare a special assembly for their parents and carers. These assemblies give the children a chance to share their learning with you and it also gives an opportunity to develop their confidence in performing and speaking in front of groups of people. To give the children chance to settle in, the children in Ladybirds will not do a class assembly this term.

The dates for the assemblies are attached to this newsletter. Each one will start at 2.30 p.m. The gates will open at 2.20 p.m. After the assembly has finished, please go onto the playground and wait for your child in the usual place. If you can help stack the chairs, it is always much appreciated!

Our Dovers Green Promises

Each child will be given a booklet of activities linked to our curriculum drivers that take their learning experiences beyond the Early Years and National Curriculums and very personal to the values and ethos that represents Dovers Green. You can find these on our website: www.dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk. Go to Our Learning; Curriculum; Dovers Green Promises and select the appropriate year group.

DOVERS GREEN PROMISES



Dovers Diamonds

Every week we identify and celebrate children who have demonstrated effort and perseverance in their learning and they are known as our 'Dovers Diamonds'. They get a certificate and their photograph will be displayed on a special board in the hall. They join me for 'biscuits and juice' on a Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. and bring their work to show me. If I am unavailable, Mrs McHugh will do this with the children.

School Council, Green Team and other monitors

Over the next few weeks, the children will be talking about the different areas of responsibility in school that they would be interested in.

The School Council comprises two representatives from each class (Ladybirds from after Christmas) and they meet fortnightly to talk about ways that we can improve our school. Green Team also has two representatives from each class and meet fortnightly to discuss ways that we can be more eco-friendly. Children who are interested in either of these will prepare a little talk for the class explaining why they want to be part of these teams and the children will then vote who they would like to represent them thereby reinforcing our work on the British value of democracy. These children will be part of these teams for the academic year.

The children will also have the opportunity to be Playground friends and library monitors as well as other classroom monitor jobs. This will ensure that all children have the opportunity to have an area of responsibility over the course of the year.

Volunteer help in school



We welcome any parents and carers who would like to come in to school to help in anyway. We value any support that you can offer, whether it is accompanying children on school trips, helping in classrooms or attending and helping at our PTA events; your voluntary work is always greatly appreciated. There will be a meeting for interested volunteers on **Monday 30 September** at 9.00 a.m. in the school hall. This is a chance to explain the role in more detail, give out relevant information and details about DBS checks, which are statutory for regular volunteers. I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces there to find out more about this role. If this is something that you would be interested in but cannot make that date, please get in touch with me and we will arrange an alternative time.

If you were a volunteer last year in school, have got your DBS certificate in place and you would like to come into school again, please can you speak directly to your child's class teacher so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged.

Earrings

A plea! Due to health and safety, your child **cannot** participate in PE lessons if they are wearing earrings. Therefore, please can you avoid getting your child's ears pierced unless they are done during the summer holidays and have time to heal so that they can be removed. Unless your child can take their own earrings out, please make sure you remove them on the days that your child is timetabled for PE. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Communication



In any organisation **communication is key** and we take great care and a lot of time ensuring that every piece of information you receive is important and relevant to your child. School newsletters are circulated on the first working Friday of each month. Curriculum information in the form of 'Knowledge Organisers' are sent home at the beginning of each term. An Events for Next Week reminder is sent home every Friday to keep you up to date with upcoming events and also includes the school menu for the following week. This is also posted on our Instagram page. The outside notice boards, blackboards and the windows are also used to display information.



Teachers are also sending home daily messages on Seesaw and at the moment only about 50% of parents are reading the messages! The messages provide information about the children's learning that you can use to talk to your child about what they have been doing in school as well as other useful reminders.

Our website is also a great source of information and will be used to notify you together with ParentMail of any emergency closures.



Communication works both ways and the Parents Forum is an excellent way of making improvements across the school. Ideally, each class has a 'Class Rep' who attends each Parent forum meeting. We meet every half term and it gives an opportunity for parents to share thoughts and views about our school. Meetings usually last 30 - 45 minutes. If this is something you would be interested in or carrying on with, please can you email info@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk. **We need class reps for Caterpillars, Bumblebees, Dragonflies and the three Ladybird classes.**

The first meeting will be held on Monday 7th October at 9.00 a.m. You would be welcome to join us either in person or via Zoom. Following meetings will subsequently take place on the second Monday of each half term as follows:

Monday 11th November 2024

Monday 13th January 2025

Monday 3rd March 2025

Monday 28th April 2025

Monday 9th June 2025

We have an open-door policy at Dovers but it is helpful that unless it is urgent, you speak to class teachers at the end of the day if you have anything you need to discuss with them. This is because they are preparing for lessons for the day and need to settle all children in to the school day so that they are ready for learning. You can also help to make the start of the day calm and organised by saying goodbye to your child on the playground rather than accompanying them to the door. I promise, they can do it by themselves!

Dovers Green PTA

Our Parent Teacher Association is a much-needed part of our school community. They not only raise funds for the school that enhances the children's learning, but also organise events that bring the school community together. They are really struggling to find volunteers to support them. They have already had to make the decision to cancel producing the school calendars because they don't have the manpower to organise it. If you can help in any way, however small, please contact them at doversgreenpta@hotmail.co.uk

Meet the teacher event

On Wednesday 18 September, please drop-in to meet your child's teacher, to see the classroom and the rest of the school. This will run from the end of school until 3.45 pm.

Drop-in Fridays

You are welcome to come into the classrooms on a Friday after school to share with your child what they have been learning in school. This is not meant to be an opportunity for you to talk to your child's teacher in depth about their progress. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher to make an appointment to do this.

Absences

If your child is unwell please update Study Bugs or telephone the school as early as possible in the morning leaving a message on the designated absence line. Alternatively you can send an email to info@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk. The school will require written confirmation from parents who have not contacted us to give the reason for their child's absence. For your information, the latest recommendations from the Health Protection Agency states that:



Children who have been unwell with diarrhea or a vomiting illness should be kept off school for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhea or vomiting.

Attendance

We know that regular school attendance is crucial to children making the best possible progress. There are times of course when a child is not well enough to be in school but we also recognise that there are times when they may not feel 100% but could be in school; we will always contact you if a child is really not well and ask you to take them home.

Being at school on time is also of vital importance. **All children should be in school and ready to learn by 8.50 a.m. as that is when lessons formally begin.**



Our aim is to help the children understand the importance of punctuality and having a strong work ethic that will stay with them as they get older.

Holidays in Term Time



It is a legal requirement for children to attend school and as I have already said, at Dovers Green we place great importance on high attendance as it leads to high achievement. Government legislation states that it is illegal to take children out of school for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

There is **no** entitlement to any leave of absence for a holiday during term time. Taking a holiday without authorisation can have an impact on a child's learning. The Local Authority may issue a fixed penalty fine where an unauthorised holiday has been taken. The fixed penalty fine is collected and kept by the Local Authority, not the school. Sadly, we do know that some parents tell us their child has been unwell when they have actually been on holiday. This gives the child mixed messages about being honest, a value which we teach children is very important.

Exceptional circumstances may include.....

- Where it is company/organisational policy for an employee to take leave at a specified time in the year and there is no opportunity for a family holiday in school holidays. This must be supported by documentary evidence from the organisation.
- Service personnel returning from/scheduled to embark upon a tour of duty abroad.
- Where a holiday is recommended as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence must be provided, from qualified professionals, such as a doctor.

Applications for leave of absence for a holiday should always be made well in advance on the correct form obtainable from our School Office, or it can be downloaded from our school website and returned to myself.



Reading



Reading has the highest priority at Dovers Green; not only does it unlock learning across the curriculum but also provides an enormous amount of pleasure. You can really support your child to develop their reading skills by reading with them as often as you possibly can. We want children to feel like they are good readers so it is important that the books that they read have the right level of challenge. If your child stumbles over words, encourage them to use their phonic skills to decode it, if it is a 'regular' word and read it for them if it is a tricky word. Whatever you do, don't cover the pictures! They provide valuable clues for the children as they learn to read.

Your child will be bringing home at least three reading books each week:

Read Write Inc.
Phonics

1. A Read Write Inc book which will closely match your child's phonic ability and they should be able to read this to you. They will keep this book for a week so that they can develop fluency and expression as they practise reading it several times. This book will be changed at least weekly by the class teacher or TA.
2. A 'Sharing book.' This will be a book from another reading scheme and may contain a few words that your child may need some help with reading. Please read this book first of all to your child to familiarise them with any unknown or tricky words and support them in subsequent readings until they are able to read it independently. You can come into school at the end of the day to change this book if you would like to.
3. A 'book corner' book which your child will have chosen themselves from the class book corner. They may be fiction or non-fiction books. This is a book to share or to be enjoyed on their own. Again, this can be changed throughout the week if appropriate.

The library will be up and running from Monday 16 September so please feel free to come and browse the library books with your child any day after school. Any books that are being brought back should be put on/in the book returns unit. Chosen books must be scanned out. The children have been taught how to take books out and return them, but if they forget, there are instructions to act as a reminder and there will always be staff around who can help. All our library story books are marked with a green and yellow sticker to help the children remember which of their books belongs in the school library. Those story books without a green and yellow sticker are classroom library books.

If you want to learn more about how we teach reading and other key literacy skills, please come along to our Curriculum Evening for Parents on Wednesday 9 October 7.00 - 8.30 p.m. More information will be sent nearer the time. This evening will also give you lots of helpful tips about how you can support your child's learning at home. We hope to see as many of you as possible!

Clothes Recycling Bin

We have a clothes recycling bin outside Blue Ladybirds. As well as recycling being great for the environment it will also help raise funds for our school.

If the bin is full, please can you let the office know and we can contact Astra to come and empty this!



Astra Recycling is a textile recycling company looking to reduce the amount of clothing sent to landfill. On average, each person in the UK throws 3.1 kilos of clothing away a year, producing around 206.456 tonnes of textile waste in a year! Clothes can take up to 40 years to decompose and shoes up to 1000 years to break down, but 95% of these can be recycled!

The textiles collected are either sent to Eastern Europe to be used again or converted into insulation materials and industrial cleaning wipes, so nothing goes to landfill!

Home School Link Worker (HSLW)



Mrs Lisa Brewis is our Home School Link Worker. Her HSLW role is to further develop positive home school relationships, working closely with both families and the school to help ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Lisa can be contacted through the school office and is usually on the playground before school on a Thursday morning. A leaflet can be downloaded from our website.

Important Dates for your Diary:

Community Saturday Day..... Saturday 5th October..... 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

We are so fortunate to have amazing grounds that we can use to enhance the children's learning. They do however take quite a lot of upkeep! Therefore twice a year we invite parents to come in and help us maintain the grounds. Any amount of time that you can give is much appreciated and we really don't expect you stay for two hours!



If you can make it, please bring along brooms, rakes, spades, forks, secateurs, wheelbarrows.

Light refreshments will be provided during the morning. Any help will be welcome so just stay as long as you want to. Children can come too!

INSET Closure

School will be closed for staff training on Monday 4 November.



School Photos



This year the school photographer will be in school on Thursday 17th October. Siblings in school will have their photographs taken together as well as an individual photograph (Class photos will be taken separately next year).

Jeans for Genes - Friday 20th September

This year we will again be supporting the Jeans for Genes campaign to raise money for those who face daily challenges as a result of living with a genetic disorder. The children can wear denim (or something blue) to school that day, along with their school jumper for a £1 donation.



The Jeans for Genes campaign raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic disorder and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected.

Most importantly, the campaign:

- **brings together** the genetic disorder community in order to make a loud noise about the issues that matter to them,
- **shines a light** on the organisations that work tirelessly to improve the lives of affected individuals; and
- **celebrates** the achievements of those living with a genetic disorder.

If you would like further information on this campaign please visit the following website:

<https://www.jeansforgenes.org/>

Sponsored walk



Every year we hold a Sponsored walk which is not only a great Community Event but also raises much needed funds for the school which we use to enhance the learning environment and opportunities for the children. Last year we raised £2045! Parents are welcome to support their children (or even walk with them!)

This year, we will be holding this on **Friday 25th October**.

Years 1 and 2 - They will begin their walk at 9.00 am

Ladybirds - Will start at 2.15 pm

Butterflies - Teachers will be in touch separately to let you know individual arrangements.

Money raised goes in to our school fund and during these difficult times budget wise, this provides us with the ability to provide those extra resources that enhance the children's learning.

Open Morning Wanders

If you know of anyone who is looking for a place for their child from September 2025 please let them know that we are holding our 'Open Morning Wanders' on the following dates, between 10.00-11.30 a.m.

Wednesday 25th September

Tuesday 1st October

Wednesday 9th October

Wednesday 16th October

Friday 9th November

Monday 25th November



More information can be found on our website along with a booking form.

Social Media

Please do follow our Instagram page! We put up our weekly information about forthcoming events as well as sharing examples of the children's learning.

Values



Our value for this term is Friendship.

Thank you for reading this and after having shared a lot of vital information with you I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone at Dovers Green a very happy start to the school academic year and a successful term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicki Starling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "N".

Nicki Starling
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term: Monday 2nd September – Friday 20th December

Wednesday 18 th September	Meet your child's teacher 3:05 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Friday 20 th September	Jeans for Genes - £1 donation
Wednesday 25 th September	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Monday 30 th September	Meeting for parents/carers who would like to volunteer in the school - 9:00 am
Throughout October	Black History Month
Tuesday 1 st October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Thursday 3 rd October	Bumblebees Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Saturday 5 th October	Community Saturday
Monday 7 th October	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
W/b 7 th October	NSPCC Kindness Challenge
Wednesday 9 th October	Curriculum Evening (Reading and Key Literary skills) 7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
Thursday 10 th October	Caterpillars Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 16 th October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Thursday 17 th October	School Photos
Friday 18 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly - 9.00 a.m. (No parents)
Thursday 24 th October	Fireflies Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 25 th October	PTA Non Uniform Day - children to come dressed appropriately for the sponsored walk Sponsored Walk Nasal Flue Vaccine for all Year Groups End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 4 th November	INSET Day school closed for all children
Tuesday 5 th November	Children return to school
Friday 8 th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.
Monday 11 th November – Friday 15 th November	'Inclusive Individuals' Week incorporating anti-bullying week.
Monday 11 th November	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 14 th November	Grasshoppers Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 18 th November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday 20 th November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 21 st November	Dragonflies Assembly 2.30 pm
Monday 25 th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Week beginning 9 th December	Whole School Christmas Productions

Friday 13 th December	Bike it Breakfast - Bling your bike for Christmas
Tuesday 17 th December	Pantomime for the children - am Party - pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas school lunch
Friday 20 th December	Non Uniform Day End of Autumn Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Spring Term: Monday 6th January - Thursday 4 April

Monday 6 th January - Friday 17 th January	'Confident Communicators' week.
Monday 6 th January	Start of Spring Term
Monday 13 th January	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Wednesday 22 nd January	Maths Curriculum Evening
Thursday 23 rd January	Bumblebees Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 3 th January	Caterpillars Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 31 st January	Non Uniform Day
Week beginning 3 rd February	Cultural Cooking Week
Tuesday 6 th February 2024	Fireflies Assembly - 2.30pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 13 th February	Grasshoppers Assembly - 2.30 p.m. End of term for the children - 3.05 pm finish
Friday 14 th February	INSET day - school closed for children
Monday 24 th February	Children return to school
Monday 3 rd March - Friday 7 th March	Book Week
Monday 3 rd March	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March	Dragonflies Assembly - 2.30 pm
Monday 17 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 19 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 20 th March	Butterflies Assembly - 2.30pm
Friday 28 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 4 th April	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Summer Term: Monday 21st April - Tuesday 22nd July

Monday 21 st April	Children return for Summer Term
Monday 28 th April	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 1 st May	Red Ladybirds Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8 th May	Yellow Ladybirds Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 15 th May	Blue Ladybirds Assembly
Friday 23 rd May	Non Uniform Day End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 2 nd June - Friday 6 th June	Environmental Explorers Week
Monday 2 nd June	Children return to school
Friday 7 th June	Bike it Breakfast
Monday 9 th June - Friday 13 th June	Phonics Screening Week for Year 1 and some Year 2 children.
Monday 9 th June	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Friday 27 th June	Non Uniform Day
Thursday 3 rd July	Sports Day Parents are invited to join for a picnic lunch at 12.00pm followed by races
Friday 4 th July	INSET day for staff. School closed for children
Monday 7 th July	Annual School Reports home
Wednesday 9 th July	Summer Celebration
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 2 Leavers Assembly
Friday 18 th July	Non Uniform Day End of Term - 1.15 p.m. finish
Monday 21 st July	INSET Day - School closed for children
Tuesday 22 nd July	INSET Day - School closed for children